

Words on Target #7

"Uncle Bob"

Back in February 2021 we introduced a game that involving creating and scoring five-letter words based on values of their individual letters. Those values were A = 1, B = 2, on up to Z = 26. The picture shows the values of three words: CACHE 20, CABAL 19, and TEASE 50.



You're welcome to look back and read how the game is played in that [February puzzle](#). Since then we've been throwing out challenges for you to come up with words that meet certain marks.

In the solutions of [Words on Target #6 I](#) suggested the strategy of finding a word or words close to your target, altering one or two letters, and then re-anagramming if necessary. For instance, aiming for 27 points I found BALED at 24. Replacing D with G makes 27, and then BALEG anagrams to BAGEL. Pure fun with words.

Here are more of those challenges. On the [Word Puzzles](#) page you'll find a handy downloadable scoring calculator in two formats to assist you.

Type 1. Midrange scoring single words like CURLS at 73 points. Find words worth totals of 70, 75, and 80 points each.

Type 2. Low scoring pairs. For example, the words CACHE and CABAL score a total of 39 points. Find pairs of words reaching totals of 56, 58, and 60 points.

Type 3. High scoring triplets. Find sets three words reaching scores of 280, 284 and 288 points

Below is a chart of all the letter values. I'll put my solutions (when I find them) on the next page. Happy hunting!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Uncle Bob's Solutions

1. From CURLS (73), I tried CROSS (74), adjusting U back to O and L up to S. I needed one more point so DROSS fills the bill at 75. HOWDY also scores 75. I tried HORSE (65) then SOREL (69), and finally MORES (70). For 80 points my word is POSEY. What is your 80-point word and how did you arrive at it?

2. Two 30-point words score 60 total. CADGE (20), ACIDS (36) make 56 total. So AIDES (38) and CADGE make 58. HEDGE (29), CADRE (31) total 60 points.

3. We need words worth about 95 points each. A tall order, and they often are harder to adjust. I start with TURNS (92), adjust to SPURT (94). I compiled this bank: PUTTS (96), RUSTS (97), RUSTY (103), BUZZY (100), WORST (95), STORY (97), and SORTS (91).

RUSTS (97), RUSTY (103), and POSEY (80) from problem 1, make 280.

TURNS (92), PUTTS (96), and BUZZY (100) give me 288.

Finally TURNS (92), WORST (95), and STORY (97) total 284.

Please send us your findings.