

\$1 Word Search

Overview: Have you ever heard of a dollar word search? It's a special kind of puzzle where the letters in a word add up to a coin value. For example, an **A** is worth a penny, the letter **B** is worth two cents, **C** is worth three cents, and so on. A word like "excellent" is worth \$1.

Materials

- Pencil
- Paper

Activity

First, we need to assign each letter of the alphabet an amount. You start with the first letter, A, and that's worth 1 cent. B is worth 2 cents. C is worth 3 cents... and on up to Z which is worth 26 cents.

Now can you tell me how it's possible for gold to be worth less than silver?

Let's find out. Gold = G-O-L-D. This means, G=7, O=15, L=12 and D=4, so GOLD = 7 + 15 + 12 + 4 = 38 cents. But how much is silver worth?

The letters of silver are: S=19, I=9, L=12, V=22, E=5 and R=18, so SILVER = 19 + 9 + 12 + 22 + 5 + 18 = 85 cents. Hence silver is worth more than gold!

But the real point of the game is to find as many words as you can that equal exactly \$1. I'll start you out with a couple so you can see how this works: excellent and discipline are worth \$1. So are first names like Suzanne, Kristin, Henrietta, and Christian. Several animal names in the zoo are dollar-worthy, as are a couple of undersea creatures. A certain number (when spelled out) which is less than 100 is worth a dollar. So is a flushing device in the bathroom. Can you figure it out?

I have more than 1,700 words in my \$1 word search... can you find out a few?

Now it's your turn! Work out the exercises below. (You'll find answers at the back of this book.)

Exercises

1. What is the word "bucket" worth?
2. Determine the monetary value of the word "toilet."
3. What is a "starfish" worth?
4. The shortest sentence in English is "Go." How much is it equivalent to?

Which one of the following has the greatest monetary value?

5. Supper, dinner, lunch
6. Monday, Sunday, Tuesday

Answers to Exercises: 1 dollar word search

1. \$1
2. \$1
3. \$1
4. 22 cents
5. Supper
6. Tuesday