MASONIC TERMS FOR DUMMIES

**A GLOSSARY OF MASONIC TERMS**

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Freemasons have their own lingo, like many organizations. They give special meaning to some common words and have terms you won’t hear anywhere but in a Masonic lodge. The following list is a glossary of sorts for some common Masonic phrases:

* **Appendant bodies:**Masonically affiliatedgroups that Masons or their relatives may join.
* **Degree:** One of three progressive stages of advancement in the lodge, conferred using a ritual ceremony; additional degrees are conferred by appendant bodies.
* **Grand Lodge:**A governing organization with authority over the individual lodges in its jurisdiction.
* **Grip or token:** A special identifying handshake used by Masons to identify each other, different for each degree.
* **Hoodwink:**Blindfold worn by candidates during portions of degree ceremonies.
* **Initiated:**The completion by a candidate of the 1st Masonic degree.
* **Light:** Masonic knowledge.
* **Lodge:** A group of Freemasons assembling under the authority of a charter issued by a Grand Lodge; also a building or a room where Masons meet.
* **Operative:**The period of Freemasonry when Masons actually worked with stone and constructed buildings
* **Passed:**The completion by a Mason of the 2nd degree.
* **Profane:**A non-Mason.
* **Raised:**The completion by a Mason of the 3rd degree.
* **Recognized:**The agreement between Masonic Grand Lodges that each other’s rules and customs conform to a certain accepted standard.
* **Regular:**A classification of Freemasonry that practices customs which conform to the laws and regulations of a Grand Lodge.
* **Sign:**A hand gesture used as a mode of identification between Masons, different for each degree.
* **Sitting in the East:**The position in the lodge room where the Worshipful Master sits, also known as the Oriental chair; lodges are symbolically situated east and west.
* **Speculative:** Freemasonry as practiced today, using the symbolism of Operative Masons to build character in men.
* **Step:**A position of the feet used as a mode of recognition between Masons, different for each degree.
* **Word or pass:**A password used as a mode of recognition between Masons, different for each degree.