

CHANGE ONE LETTER AT A TIME

# Word Ladder Classroom Sampler

Three print-ready word ladders, a teacher answer key, and a quick routine for warm-ups, tutoring, or family practice.

## A simple 10-minute routine

1. Give learners the start and target words.
2. Change exactly one letter on each rung.
3. Keep the word length the same.
4. Check every adjacent pair with the answer key.

## Need more free puzzles?

Scan for the free generator and printable worksheet page.



Suggested for grades 3-6; adjust vocabulary support for your learners.

You may print copies for your classroom, tutoring students, or household.

Do not resell, repackage, or post the PDF publicly.

CHANGE ONE LETTER PER MOVE

# COLD TO WARM

Write one valid four-letter word on each rung. Each neighboring pair must differ in exactly one position.

01

**COLD**

02

\_\_\_\_\_

03

\_\_\_\_\_

04

\_\_\_\_\_

05

**WARM****TEACHER HINT**

Look for a bridge through the -OR- and -AR- patterns.

CHANGE ONE LETTER PER MOVE

# HARD TO SOFT

Write one valid four-letter word on each rung. Each neighboring pair must differ in exactly one position.

01

**HARD**

02

\_\_\_\_\_

03

\_\_\_\_\_

04

\_\_\_\_\_

05

\_\_\_\_\_

06

\_\_\_\_\_

07

**SOFT****TEACHER HINT**

Preserve the OR sound while changing the outside letters.

CHANGE ONE LETTER PER MOVE

# HAND TO FOOT

Write one valid four-letter word on each rung. Each neighboring pair must differ in exactly one position.

01

**HAND**

02

\_\_\_\_\_

03

\_\_\_\_\_

04

\_\_\_\_\_

05

\_\_\_\_\_

06

\_\_\_\_\_

07

**FOOT****TEACHER HINT**

Find a middle family that connects the two different endpoints.

# Check every rung.

Each route below changes one letter at a time and uses the same pinned word list as the public solver.

PUZZLE 01 / 4 MOVES

## COLD TO WARM

COLD -> CORD -> WORD -> WARD -> WARM

PUZZLE 02 / 6 MOVES

## HARD TO SOFT

HARD -> CARD -> CORD -> CORE -> SORE -> SORT -> SOFT

PUZZLE 03 / 6 MOVES

## HAND TO FOOT

HAND -> BAND -> BOND -> BOLD -> FOLD -> FOOD -> FOOT

[Create another checked puzzle](#)

Use the free generator or print three more worksheets online.

