To my children—Mike, Emily, Mary, and Jenny—
Word Wizards in their own right.
A father couldn’t ask for better kids.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Welcome to Word Ladders!</strong> . . . 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counting Up ......................... 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home, Sweet Home .................... 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Doghouse ...................... 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shrinking Sizes ..................... 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Wet .............................. 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Go, Team! ............................ 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Seasons ....................... 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Smart ........................... 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleepytime .......................... 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More or Less ........................ 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbershop .......................... 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inside Out ........................... 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weighty Matters ..................... 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restful Vacation ...................... 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardening ............................ 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birdsong .............................. 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shady Glade .......................... 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Days .......................... 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation ....................... 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Cooking ........................ 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America’s Pastime ................... 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Treats .......................... 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finish Line ........................... 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fireworks ............................ 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opposites Attract .................... 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seasoning Selection .................. 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Displays of Affection ................ 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neigh-bors ............................ 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giving and Receiving ............... 35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Getting There ....................... 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Splish Splash ....................... 37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fancy Footwear ...................... 38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shopping Spree ...................... 39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweet Things ......................... 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodsman ............................. 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thar She Blows! ...................... 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Candy ....................... 43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car Trip .............................. 44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendship ............................ 45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Grapes .......................... 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Busy Bees ............................ 47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ship Ahoy ............................. 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Score! ................................. 49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personality Change ................... 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ride ‘Em ............................. 51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Life ............................. 52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underfoot ............................. 53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bare Feet ............................. 54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Color Change ........................ 55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deep Freeze .......................... 56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Kitchen ....................... 57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giving Thanks ....................... 58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On the Range ......................... 59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles .............................. 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungry! ............................... 61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opposites Attract #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nap Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Living</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snack Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Matter of Size</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catnip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Showers and Flowers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coffee Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simon Says</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wet and Wetter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After Dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookworm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily Journey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Top to Bottom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finders Keepers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tolling Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some Like It Sweet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feelings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bright Light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Ball!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good, Clean Fun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gently Down the Stream</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better and Better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Weather</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brrrrr!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby Animals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fizzy Drinks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Enemies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five Senses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shop ‘til You Drop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Whole Story</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rags to Riches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insect Incline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tidying Up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outerwear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brass Band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crybaby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utensils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boo!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bedridden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Make-Your-Own Word Ladders</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Answer Key</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Welcome to Word Ladders!

In this book you’ll find 100 mini-word-study lessons that are also kid-pleasing games! To complete each Word Ladder takes just ten minutes but actively involves each learner in analyzing the structure and meaning of words. To play, students begin with one word and then make a series of other words by changing or rearranging the letters in the word before. With regular use, Word Ladders can go a long way toward developing your students’ decoding and vocabulary skills.

How do Word Ladders work?
Let’s say our first Word Ladder begins with the word walk. The directions will tell students to change one letter in walk to make a word that means “to speak.” The word students will make, of course, is talk. The next word will then ask students to make a change in talk to form another word—perhaps chalk, or tall. At the top of the ladder, students will have a final word that is in some way related to the first word—for example, run. If students get stuck on a rung along the way, they can come back to it, because the words before and after will give them the clues they need to go on.

How do Word Ladders benefit students?
Word Ladders are great for building students’ decoding, phonics, spelling, and vocabulary skills. When students add or rearrange letters to make a new word from one they have just made, they must examine sound-symbol relationships closely. This is just the kind of analysis that all children need to do in order to learn how to decode and spell accurately. And when the puzzle adds a bit of meaning in the form of a definition (for example, “make a word that means to say something”), it helps extend students’ understanding of words and concepts. All of these skills are key to students’ success in learning to read and write. So even though Word Ladders will feel like a game your students will be practicing essential literacy skills at the same time!

How do I teach a Word Ladder lesson?
Word Ladders are incredibly easy and quick to implement. Here are four simple steps:

1. Choose a Word Ladder to try. (The first five pages feature easier ladders; you may want to start with those.)
2. Make a copy of the Word Ladder for each student.
3. Choose whether you want to do your Word Ladders with the class as a whole, or by having students work alone, in pairs, or in groups. (You might do the
first few together, until students are ready to work more independently.)

4. At each new word, students will see two clues: the kinds of changes they need to make to the previous word (“rearrange letters” or “add two letters”), and a definition of or clue to the meaning of the word. Sometimes this clue will be a sentence in which the word is used in context but is left out for children to fill in. Move from word to word this way, up the whole Word Ladder.

That’s the lesson in a nutshell! It should take no longer than ten minutes to do. Once you’re done, you may wish to extend the lesson by having students sort the words into various categories. This can help them deepen their understanding of word relationships. For instance, they could sort them into:

- Grammatical categories. (Which words are nouns? Verbs?)
- Word structure. (Which words have a long vowel and which don’t? Which contain a consonant blend?)
- Word meaning. (Which words express what a person can do or feel? Which do not?)

Look for the Bonus Boxes with stars. These are particularly difficult words you may want to preteach. Or you can do these ladders as a group so that children will not get stuck on this rung.

Tips for Working With Word Ladders

To give students extra help, mix up and write on the board all the “answers” for the ladder (that is, the words for each rung) for them to choose from as they go through the puzzle. In addition:

- Add your own clues to give students extra help as they work through each rung of a ladder. A recent event in your classroom or community could even inspire clues for words.
- If students are having difficulty with a particular word, you might simply say the word aloud and see if students can spell it correctly by making appropriate changes in the previous word. Elaborate on the meanings of the words as students move their way up the ladder.
- If students are stuck on a particular rung of the Word Ladder, tell them to skip it and come back to it later.
- Challenge students to come up with alternative definitions for the same words. Many words, like lock, fall, and stock, have multiple meanings.

Timothy Rasinski is a professor of literacy education at Kent State University, with a special focus on young and struggling readers. Dr. Rasinski has served on the board of directors at the International Reading Association and as president of the College Reading Association. He is the author of numerous books and professional articles on effective reading instruction.
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

- More than a few.
  Change one letter.

- A light brown color.
  Change one letter.

- A chicken that lays eggs.
  Change one letter.

- Sound made by a cat.
  Add one letter.

- In the present time.
  Change one letter.

- Opposite of old.
  Change one letter.

- To cut grass.
  Change one letter.

- More than one man.
  Take away two letters, then add one.

- Number of fingers a person has.
  Change one letter.

- A male person older than a boy.
  Change one letter.

Name ______________________________

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Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. Fake hair. **Take away three letters.**

2. To hang or sink downward. **Change one letter.**

3. Two things exactly alike. **Add one letter.**

4. Short for Samuel. **Change one letter.**

5. A tipi can be one of these. **Change one letter.**

6. A few. **Change one letter.**

7. What a dog does with its tail. **Change one letter.**
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

A small round spot. **Change one letter.**

Something you put ice cream in. **Change one letter.**

To say “yes,” you can ___ your head. **Rearrange the letters.**

A secret way of writing. **Add one letter.**

A kind of fish. **Change one letter.**

A kind of cola soda. **Change one letter.**

Short for Donald. **Change one letter.**

What a dog might like to chew on. **Change one letter.**

**dog**
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. To have lighted something.
   Take away three letters.
   - Little

2. A machine that grinds pepper is called a pepper.
   Add one letter.
   - Little

3. Sick.
   Take away one letter, then add two.
   - Little

4. Give ___ to me.
   Take away one letter.
   - Little

5. A shopping center.
   Change one letter.
   - Little

   Add one letter.
   - Little

---

Daily Word Ladders: Grades 2-3 © Timothy Rasinski, Published by Scholastic Teaching Resources
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. It falls from the sky and makes you wet. **Add one letter.**
   - **w e t**

2. Part of the wheat plant. **Change one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __ __

3. A wager or guess that something will happen. **Take away one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __

4. Something that makes a ringing noise. **Change one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __

5. You wear it to hold up your pants. **Change one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __

6. A stick used for hitting balls. **Change one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __

7. The opposite of good. **Change one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __

8. Short for Bradley. **Add one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __

9. Walked very fast. **Take away one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __

10. Part of the wheat plant. **Change one letter.**
    - __ __ __ __ __

11. All of us. **Take away one letter.**
    - __ __ __
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. Food that comes from animals.
   **Rearrange letters.**

   **Change one letter.**

3. To get or bring something.
   **Change one letter.**

4. What you pay to cross a bridge.
   **Change one letter.**

5. Not wild. A house pet is ___.
   **Rearrange letters.**

6. An enormous weight: 2,000 pounds.
   **Take away two letters, then add one.**

7. Ripped.
   **Add one letter.**

8. What teams must do together. The coach said to us, “Good ___, team!”
   **Change one letter.**

9. Something gets ___ out when it has been used often.
   **Change one letter.**

10. A story.
    **Change one letter.**
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

**Sweet Seasons**

1. A cord or thread. You put beads on a ___ to make a necklace. **Change one letter.**
2. To make music with your voice. **Take away one letter.**
3. Thin and narrow, not wide or thick. **Take away two letters, then add one.**
4. A thick and gooey liquid. **Add one letter.**
5. A bandage that hangs from the neck to support a hurt arm. **Add one letter.**
6. More slim. **Add two letters and rearrange.**
7. Something a bee does. **Take away one letter.**
8. To heat something to just below the boiling point. **Take away one letter.**
9. Another season. **Change one letter.**

**Spring**
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. A two-wheeled vehicle for carrying things. **Add one letter.**
   - **A**

2. A house pet that is related to lions and tigers. **Change one letter.**
   - **A**

3. The past tense of *sit*. He ____ in the chair. **Take away one letter.**
   - **A**

4. A tool used to cut wood. **Change one letter.**
   - **A**

5. Not cooked. **Change one letter.**
   - **A**

6. An automobile. **Add one letter.**
   - **A**

7. To make pictures. **Take away two letters, then add one.**
   - **A**

8. A thing used to suck a drink from a glass. **Add two letters.**
   - **A**

9. A word you might say to make an animal go away. **Add two letters.**
   - **A**
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. To flow or trickle slowly. **Take away one letter.**
2. Baby birds make this sound. **Take away two letters, then add one.**
3. Another name for a bucket. **Change two letters.**
4. A friend. **Take away one letter.**
5. An animal that gives us wool. **Add one letter.**
6. To take off the skin of an orange. **Change one letter.**
7. Children often sit on their parents’ ____s. **Rearrange the letters.**
8. To make applause. **Add one letter.**
9. A liquid that comes from trees. **Take away one letter.**
10. To hit. **Change one letter.**
11. A short rest. **Change one letter.**

**sleep**
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

Opposite of most.
Add one letter.

If something can’t be found, it’s ___.
Change one letter.

The pole on a sailboat that holds the sails.
Change one letter.

The land next to the sea.
Add one letter.

A wooden barrel that holds liquids.
Change one letter.

What a doctor puts on your arm or leg if it’s broken.
Change one letter.

This covers your face on Halloween.
Change one letter.

The price of something.
Take away one letter.

Opposite of first.
Change one letter.

Opposite of most.
Add one letter.

Name ________________________________
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. A deep track made in the ground by wheels.
   **Change one letter.**

2. A male sheep.
   **Rearrange the letters.**

3. A drawing that shows information, like a graph.
   **Add one letter.**

4. A rodent.
   **Change one letter.**

5. To hurt someone or something.
   **Take away one letter.**

6. A part of your body attached to your shoulder.
   **Take away one letter.**

7. A small ornament you put on a bracelet.
   **Change one letter.**

8. To burn something slightly. Rhymes with bar.
   **Take away one letter.**

9. Something to sit on.
   **Add one letter.**

10. What you do to hair in a barbershop.
    **Change one letter.**

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Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

When you stand in a room, your feet are on the ___.

Take away one letter, then add two.

Another opening on a house other than a door.
Add two letters.

To ___ the race, you’ll have to run fast.
Change one letter.

Last night, I ___ the candles.
Change one letter.

To cut off. Also, some rabbits are called ___-eared.
Take away one letter.

When you stand in a room, your feet are on the ___.
Take away one letter, then add two.

To fall or drop heavily.
Take away two letters, then add one.

The toy car won’t move unless you ___ it up.
Add one letter.

The ability to say clever and funny things.
Change one letter.

To whistle, put your ___s together.
Change one letter.

To the race, you’ll have to run fast.
Change one letter.

The toy car won’t move unless you ___ it up.
Add one letter.

The ability to say clever and funny things.
Change one letter.

To whistle, put your ___s together.
Change one letter.

To fall or drop heavily.
Take away two letters, then add one.
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

A measure of volume—two pints, or 32 ounces.
**Add two letters.**

A piece or bit of something.
**Change one letter.**

A small wagon with two wheels.
**Take away one letter.**

To say or sing a phrase over and over.
**Take away one letter, then add two.**

Liquid color you put on with brushes.
**Add one letter.**

What you make by painting or drawing.
**Take away one letter.**

A pie with jelly, custard, or fruit inside.
**Change one letter.**

A drawing that shows information, like a graph.
**Change one letter.**

To breathe heavily, like a dog after a run.
**Take away one letter.**
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. Very warm. 
   Take away two letters.

2. Covers your head. 
   Change one letter.

3. The opposite of love. 
   Add one letter.

4. Speed or quickness in doing something. 
   Add one letter.

5. A person who throws a party. 
   Take away one letter and change one letter.

6. What you might get at the doctor. 
   Rearrange the letters.

7. To take pictures with a camera. 
   Add one letter.

8. Covering for a bed. 
   Change two letters.

9. What you do at night. 
   Change two letters.
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. To move along slowly, like a river. 
   **Take away two letters.**

2. To display something.
   **Change one letter.**

   **Take away one letter, then add two two.**

4. What you might take to get clean.
   **Add two letters.**

5. The highest point of something.
   **Take away one letter.**

6. A store.
   **Take away three letters.**

7. To come to a halt.
   **Change one letter.**

8. Not fast.
   **Change one letter.**

9. What a flower might be planted in.
   **Rearrange the letters.**
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

Birds make this sound.
Add one letter.

Your leg is attached to this body part.
Take away one letter.

He ran so fast he ___ on the slippery floor.
Change one letter.

A small building for storing things.
Take away one letter, then add two more.

To make an offer to buy something.
Take away one letter.

A small piece of something, as in a “chocolate __.”
Add one letter.

A large boat.
Change two letters.

On snowy days, you go down hills on this.
Change one letter.

What you sleep on.
Change one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

Golfers put a golfball on this. Change one letter.

Triangles and squares are ___s. Change one letter.

Exact alike. Take away one letter.

A liquid that comes from trees. Change one letter.

To flow or trickle slowly. Take away one letter, then add two.

A bad feeling after doing something wrong. Change one letter.

Short for Samuel. Take away one letter.

To view. Take away one letter.

To drink just a little. Change one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. A little warmer than cold. Take away two letters.  
   *School*

2. A black rock that can be burned to make heat. Change one letter.  
   *Ool*

3. In the winter, you need a. Change one letter.  
   *ho*

4. A pet that says “meow.” Take away one letter.  
   *ow*

5. Short for *cannot*. Add one letter.  
   *oant*

   *lman*

7. To hurt something by making a hollow in it. Change one letter.  
   *et*

   *en*

   *School*
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

This flies through air.
Change one letter.

A thick wooden board.
Add one letter.

A wide, shallow metal container used for cooking.
Change one letter.

You wipe your feet on this.
Take away one letter.

The opposite of sink.
Take away one letter, then add two.

The trench that surrounds a castle.
Take away two letters, then add one.

A green, living thing that is not an animal.
Change one letter.

An idea about how to do something.
Add one letter.

To touch softly, as in “a ___ on the head.”
Change one letter.

Daily Word Ladders: Grades 2-3 © Timothy Rasinski, Published by Scholastic Teaching Resources
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

- 1. To have been set free. **Change one letter.**
- 2. To give food. **Take away one letter.**
- 3. Opposite of good. **Change one letter.**
- 4. A piece of furniture to sleep on. **Change one letter.**
- 5. A flat block of something, like a chocolate. **Change one letter.**
- 6. A place where farm animals sleep. **Change one letter.**
- 7. Sound made by a dog. **Add one letter.**
- 8. Without covering. **Change one letter.**
- 9. After the cake was __, we ate it. **Take away one letter, then add two.**
- 10. To have been given food. **Take away one letter.**
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

A round object used in games.
**Take away two letters, then add one more.**

A shopping center.
**Take away two letters, then add two.**

A pole in the middle of a sailboat that holds up the sails.
**Change one letter.**

Not to hit, as in “Don’t ___ the ball.”
**Change one letter.**

A kind of fish, or the lowest voice in a chorus.
**Change one letter.**
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. To be able to.
   Take away two letters.

2. To appear to be, as in “I ___ to be sick today.”
   Take away one letter, then add two.

3. I ___ down in the chair.
   Change one letter.

4. Short for Samuel.
   Change one letter.

5. The place where two pieces of cloth are joined.
   Change one letter.

6. Perspiration.
   Add one letter.

7. A place to sit down.
   Change one letter.

8. The flavor of candy.
   Change one letter.

9. A pet that says “meow.”
   Change one letter.

Name ________________________________
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

Start: __ __ __ __ __

1. A pastry with jelly or fruit in the middle. **Take away one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __ __

2. This creature lives in water. **Change one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __

3. A desire or want. **Change one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __

4. Money. **Change one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __

5. What a doctor puts on a broken arm or leg. **Change one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __

6. To clean with water. **Change one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __

7. You use this for eating. **Change one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __

8. A two-wheeled vehicle that carries things. **Change one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __

9. Opposite of start. **Add two letters.**
   - __ __ __ __ __
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. Rubber on the wheel of a car.
   Change one letter.

2. A heap or small hill of items. Rhymes with smile.
   Change one letter.

3. A small mountain.
   Change one letter.

4. A square of glazed clay often found in bathrooms.
   Change one letter.

5. A corridor or passageway.
   Change one letter.

6. A small tablet of medicine.
   Change one letter.

7. You can grip this with your hand.
   Add two letters.

8. A body part attached to the arm.
   Change two letters.

9. Something made of wax that you can light.
   Change one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

Opposite of **black**.
Add two letters.

---

Very warm.
Change one letter.

---

To steal or rob.
Rhymes with **boot**.
Change one letter.

---

Part of a door you can open or shut with a key.
Take away one letter.

---

A cube of something hard, like a ___ of wood.
Change one letter.

---

To strike.
Change one letter.

---

Plenty of something.
Take away one letter.

---

To use your eyes to see things.
Change one letter.

---

Used for telling time.
Change one letter.

---
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

Salt and ___.
Change one letter.

A loud noise, as in "__ goes the weasel."
Change one letter.

A place to buy things.
Change one letter.

Opposite of cold.
Change one letter.

I ____ down on the chair.
Take away one letter.

Used for popping corn.
Add three letters.

What bunnies do.
Take away one letter.

What you might get at the doctor’s office.
Add one letter.

It covers the head.
Change one letter.

Name ____________________________

Salt and ___.
Change one letter.

A loud noise, as in “__ goes the weasel.”
Change one letter.

A place to buy things.
Change one letter.

Opposite of cold.
Change one letter.

I ____ down on the chair.
Take away one letter.

Final words: salt
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

**Displays of Affection**

1. Sometimes given with a hug. **Change two letters.**

2. A kind of pig. **Change one letter.**

3. You wear this on your foot. **Add one letter.**

4. Not fast. **Change one letter.**

5. Plenty of something. **Change one letter.**

6. Opposite of high. **Take away one letter.**

7. To have lighted something. **Change one letter.**

8. What children fly in the wind. **Add one letter.**

9. A gardening tool. **Change one letter.**

10. Opposite of high. **Take away one letter.**

11. To present something to others. **Change one letter.**
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

A baby horse.
Change one letter.

When things stick together, they ___.
Change one letter.

You can put ice cream in this.
Change one letter.

To want or wish for something to happen.
Add one letter.

A garden tool.
Take away two letters.

A small lake.
Change one letter.

What our skeletons are made of.
Change one letter.

To deal with something successfully.
Change one letter.

What rabbits do.
Change one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. I ___ a letter in the mail.
   Take away three letters.

2. Twisted or dented.
   Change one letter.

3. A wager or guess that something will happen.
   Take away one letter.

4. To raise up.
   Add one letter.

5. The past tense of bite.
   Change one letter.

   Change one letter.

7. To have caught on fire.
   Change one letter.

8. A strap that holds up your pants.
   Change one letter.

9. Another name for a present.
   Change one letter.
Name ______________________________

Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. To walk very fast.
   **Change one letter.**
   Take away one letter.

2. The place in a barn where a horse might stay.
   **Change one letter.**

3. The number after nine.
   **Take away two letters, then add one.**

4. Opposite of short.
   **Take away one letter.**

5. What you sleep inside when you camp.
   **Add one letter.**

6. To say.
   **Change one letter.**

7. An small animal, as in the ___ of the litter.
   **Change one letter.**

8. You pay ___ to use someone else’s property.
   **Change one letter.**

9. The long stem of a plant from which leaves and flowers grow.
   **Add one letter.**

10. To walk very fast.
    
**Walk**
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

Today I swim; yesterday I ___.
**Change one letter.**

The hair of sheep.
**Change one letter.**

Opposite of tame.
**Change one letter.**

To beat someone in a game.
**Take away one letter.**

A stick used by magicians.
**Take away one letter, then add another.**

A place to swim.
**Change one letter.**

What trees are made of.
**Change two letters.**

You have to ___ up some toys to make them go.
**Add one letter.**

The blowing air.
**Change one letter.**

A large white bird with a curved neck.
**Change one letter.**

___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___

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Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

**Fancy Footwear**

1. **A store.**
   - Change one letter.

2. **Where boats park.**
   - Change one letter.

3. **A feeling of horror or surprise.**
   - Take away one letter, then add two.

4. **What the doctor might give you.**
   - Change one letter.

5. **Polka ___. Also, the little mark on the letter i.**
   - Take away two letters, then add one.

6. **Very warm.**
   - Change one letter.

7. **The sound an owl makes.**
   - Add one letter.

8. **You wear this on your foot.**
   - Take away one letter.

9. **A shoe that goes over your ankle.**
   - Change one letter.
Name ________________________________

Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

A place with many stores.
Take away one letter.

Another word for will.
Add one letter to the beginning.

A raised area of land.
Take away one letter and add two.

Another word for boat.
Change one letter.

Little.
Change one letter.

A corridor or passageway.
Change one letter.

The part of your body just below your waist.
Take away one letter.

shop
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. A place full of sand is __.
   Change one letter.

2. A body part attached to the arm.
   Change one letter.

3. To have sung.
   Change one letter.

4. To suspend from above.
   Change one letter.

5. Unhappy.
   Take away two letters, then add one.

6. You might ___ at a fly.
   Add one letter.

7. I ___ down on the chair.
   Change one letter.

8. The taste of candy.
   Change one letter.

   Add one letter.

10. You might at a fly.
    Add one letter.
Name _________________________________

Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

A store.  
**Change one letter.**

What we eat.  
**Change one letter.**

Hula ___.  
**Change one letter.**

A curve or circle in a piece of string.  
**Take away one letter, then add one.**

What a farmer gives pigs to eat.  
**Change one letter.**

Something attached to a coat to keep your head warm.  
**Change one letter.**

Trees are made of this.  
**Change one letter.**
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. A short time. “In a __.”
   Change one letter.

2. A hollow place or gap.
   Take away one letter.

3. A part, as in “not all but __.”
   Change one letter.

   Change one letter.

5. The bottom of your foot.
   Change one letter.

6. The top layer of soil and grass attached to it.
   Take away one letter.

7. “I ate the __ thing.”
   Change one letter.

8. Change one letter.

9. Holds the seeds of plants, as in a “pea __.”
   Also, a group of whales.
   Change one letter.

Name ________________________________

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Name ____________________________

Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

A candy ___ tastes like peppermint.
Change one letter.

Largest or most important, as in “___ Street.”
Change one letter.

What you use to think.
Add one letter.

A particular type of product, like a ___ of toothpaste.
Add one letter.

What you find on a beach.
Add one letter.

Short for Andrew.
Take away one letter.

The hair on a horse’s neck.
Change one letter, move one letter.

Water that falls from the sky.
Take away one letter.

A part of wheat that is used to make cereal and muffins.
Take away one letter.

A group of musicians makes a ___.
Change one letter.

Jack ___ Jill.
Take away one letter.

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Name ________________________________

Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. What you put in cars.
   Change one letter.
   _____ _____

2. To be concerned.
   Or to take ___ of something.
   Add one letter.
   _____ _____

3. A particular day, month, or year.
   Change one letter.
   _____ _____

4. To take a risk, as in “Don’t you ___!”
   Change one letter.
   _____ _____

5. Not early.
   Change one letter.
   _____ _____

6. One of 50 in the US.
   Change one letter.
   _____ _____

7. An opening in something.
   Take away one letter.
   _____ _____

8. To gaze or look, as if surprised.
   Change one letter.
   _____ _____

   Add one letter.
   _____ _____

10. To have eaten.
    Take away two letters.
    _____ _____

11. A kind of rock.
    Or a hard surface to write on.
    Add one letter.
    _____ _____
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. Another name for a friend.
   Change one letter.

2. To take care of something. “I like to ___ to the plants in my house.”
   Take away one letter.

3. Found at the beach.
   Change one letter.

4. To make someone or something go somewhere.
   Change one letter.

5. Not good.
   Take away one letter.

6. A frog sits on a lily ___.
   Change one letter.

7. A group of musicians makes a ___.
   Change one letter.

8. Style. The way things are changing.
   Change one letter.

   Take away three letters.
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

**Great Grapes**

1. **To feel around with your hands for something you cannot see.**
   - Change one letter.
   - To lift up.
   - Take away one letter, then add two.

2. **A flower with a sweet smell.**
   - Change one letter.
   - What you use to tie something up.
   - Take away one letter.

3. 
   - Take away one letter, then add two.

4. 
   - Take away one letter, then add two.

5. 
   - Take away one letter, then add two.

---

**A dried grape.**

**Take away one letter, then add two.**

---

Name ____________________________________________

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Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

A place where bees live.  
**bee**

What is caused by burning something.  
**A**  **s**  **e**  **e**

Very good, as in “I’m feeling __.”  
**A**  **d**  **i**  **x**

If something is a good __, it is the right size.  
**F**  **i**  **s**

A small piece of something.  
**S**  **m**  **e**

To make a wager or guess about something.  
**T**  **o**  **g**

Three plus two equals this.  
**B**  **i**  **e**

A tool for making things smooth. My friend likes to __ her nails.  
**T**  **o**  **n**

Part of a fish.  
**P**

To strike something.  
**T**  **o**  **s**

A stick for hitting balls.  
**S**  **t**  **i**  **c**
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

A store.
Change one letter.

A piece of paper.
Change one letter.

What you do at night.
Change one letter.

When you walk, you first take a ___.
Change one letter.

A group of ships.
Change one letter.

Partly frozen rain.
Change one letter.

Animals that give us wool.
Change one letter.

A sharp slope uphill.
I’m tired because that hill was ___.
Add one letter.

Opposite of go.
Change one letter.

Ship

Name ________________________________
**Read the clues, then write the words.**
**Start at the bottom and climb to the top.**

1. A large city in Italy.
   **Change one letter.**

2. To judge the quality of a person or thing.
   **Change one letter.**

3. A female horse.
   **Add one letter.**

4. A rodent that looks like a large mouse.
   **Take away one letter.**

5. Not common, hard to find.
   **Change one letter.**

6. Not walk, but ___.
   **Change one letter.**

7. A groove worn in the ground by a wheel.
   **Change one letter.**

8. Not less, but ___.
   **Rearrange the letters.**
Name __________________________

Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. More than one mouse.
   Change one letter.

2. Very heavy weight.
   Take away the first letter, then rearrange the rest.

3. A flavor of gum or candy.
   Change one letter.

4. An amount of liquid—16 ounces.
   Change one letter.

5. I put my hand __ my glove.
   Take away one letter.

6. A kind of horse or bean.
   Add one letter.

7. Not nice.
   Add one letter.

8. 3 + 3 + 4 =
   Change one letter.

   Change one letter.

10. If it belongs to me, it is __.
    Change one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words.  
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. More than bad.  
   Change one letter.

2. A small horse.  
   Change two letters.

3. Hot, but not too hot.  
   Change one letter.

4. The score golfers expect on each hole of a golf game.  
   Change one letter.

5. Opposite of peace.  
   Take away one letter.

6. A place with grass and trees.  
   Add two letters.

7. If you _____ up, you become more cheerful.  
   Change one letter.

8. Meat from a pig.  
   Change one letter.

9. A small animal that lives in the dirt.  
   Take away two letters, then add one.
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

To enjoy or be pleased by something.
**Change one letter.**

A white bird.
**Change one letter.**

A measure of distance—5,280 feet.
**Change one letter.**

A growth on the skin.
**Change one letter.**

Where a person lives.
**Change one letter.**

An opening. My shirt has a ___ in it.
**Change one letter.**

Part horse and part donkey.
**Change one letter.**

A large, rounded roof or ceiling.
**Change one letter.**

Short for Michael.
**Change one letter.**
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

Name ________________________________

An insect.
Change one letter.

A rodent.
Change one letter.

Something in the night sky.
Add one letter.

A container for carrying things, like groceries.
Change one letter.

What might be left on your skin after a wound heals.
Change one letter.

Something black and gooey for fixing roads.
Rearrange the letters.

A large fish that looks like a goldfish.
Add one letter.

An automobile.
Take away one letter.

It covers the floor.
Add two letters.

A large fish that looks like a goldfish.
Add one letter.

A rodent.
Change one letter.

An automobile.
Take away one letter.

Something in the night sky.
Add one letter.

A container for carrying things, like groceries.
Change one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. To let something be seen.  
   Change one letter.
2. What you might get at the doctor’s office.  
   Change one letter.
3. A head covering.  
   Change one letter.
4. A small insect.  
   Add one letter.
5. Pick me up ___ my house ___ 6:00.  
   Take away one letter.
6. Very warm.  
   Take away one letter.
7. Salt ___ pepper.  
   Change one letter.
8. You find this on a beach.  
   Add one letter.
9. A shoe you wear in summer.  
   Add two letters.

**Answer:** shoe
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. A tear in something. Rhymes with dip. **Change two letters.**
2. A young bear. **Take away one letter.**
3. This helps solve a mystery. **Change one letter.**
4. To press with your hands, as in “__ some sunscreen on my back.” **Change one letter.**
5. This covers the floor. **Change one letter.**
6. Another name for a truck, rhymes with big. **Change one letter.**
7. The outside part of a wheel. **Change one letter.**
8. Another color. **Change one letter.**
9. To remove something that is unwanted. **Change one letter.**

**blue**
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

A form that ice often comes in.
**Add one letter.**

Short for *submarine.*
**Take away two letters, then add one.**

It happens by chance. Rhymes with *duck.*
**Change one letter.**

Smooth and slippery.
**Change one letter.**

Tiny insects that live on animals or people.
**Take away two letters, then add one.**

Pleasant or kind.
**Add one letter.**

A young bear.
**Change one letter.**

To pull something into your mouth using your tongue and lips.
**Change one letter.**

What you do with an ice cream cone.
**Take away one letter.**

To cut with a knife.
**Add one letter.**

Two times.
**Take away one letter, then add two.**
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. Things you use for cooking. 
   **Take away one letter, then add two.**

2. A small mark, like a dot. 
   **Rearrange letters.**

3. An animal you keep in your house. 
   **Change one letter.**

4. When you first start to walk, you take a ___. 
   **Rearrange letters.**

5. Opposite of **bottom**. 
   **Take away one letter.**

6. Used for cooking. 
   **Take away one letter.**

7. To hit something gently. 
   **Change one letter.**

8. Two animals that live in your house. 
   **Add a letter.**

9. Abbreviation for **apartment**. 
   **Rearrange the letters.**

10. To come to a halt. 
    **Change one letter.**

11. Short for **Patrick**. 
    **Rearrange the letters.**
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. "Do this first, ___ do that." Change one letter.
2. You use your brain to do this. Take away two letters, then add one.
3. Not thick. Take away one letter.
4. A chicken that lays eggs. Take away one letter.
5. Short for Benjamin. Change one letter.
6. Curved or crooked. Take away one letter.
8. Small bits of fluff you might find in your pocket. Take away two letters, then add two more.
9. "We love ____ in our town" Take away one letter, then add three.
10. To be alive. Change two letters.
11. Thanks____, a great holiday. Change one letter.
Name ____________________________________________

Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

**On the Range**

1. You tie a ribbon in a ___.
   **Change one letter.**

2. What you do to candles on a cake.
   **Rearrange the letters.**

3. Another name for birds.
   **Rearrange the letters.**

4. What rivers do when they go downhill.
   **Change one letter.**

5. Not high.
   **Rearrange the letters.**

6. A night bird that sits in a tree and says, “Whooo.”
   **Take away one letter.**

7. To pull something, especially a truck.
   **Change one letter.**

8. What you eat soup out of this.
   **Add one letter.**


10. A young man.
    **Change one letter.**

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Read the clues, then write the words.  
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. **truck**  
   - To put to bed and cover snugly.  
   - Take away one letter.

2. ****  
   - A small, sharp pin.  
   - Change one letter.

3. ****  
   - To pile things on top of each other.  
   - Add one letter.

4. ****  
   - When you can’t move, you’re ___.  
   - Change one letter.

5. ****  
   - A small branch from a tree or bush.  
   - Change one letter.

6. ****  
   - Something you see in the sky at night.  
   - Change one letter.

7. ****  
   - To mix.  
   - Take away two letters, then add one.

8. ****  
   - Gooey black liquid for fixing streets.  
   - Take away one letter.

9. ****  
   - A pastry.  
   - Add one letter.

10. ****  
    - A small vehicle sometimes pulled by a horse.  
    - Change one letter.

11. ****  
    - An automobile.  
    - Take away one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. A group of people or things. **Change one letter.**

2. A bed stacked on top of another. **Take away two letters, then add one.**

3. A place to save money. **Change one letter.**

4. To forbid something. **Take away one letter.**

5. You put a hot dog in a ___. **Change one letter.**

6. A place for storing things. **Change one letter.**

7. Loud noise. **Change one letter.**

8. The meal you eat in the evening. **Add three letters.**

---

Name ________________________________

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Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

A color, opposite of black.
**Add two letters.**

To be the right size or shape.
**Change one letter.**

Another word for good.
**Change one letter.**

To be victorious.
**Take away two letters, then add one.**

A baby chicken.
**Take away one letter, then add two.**

To be missing something.
**Take away one letter.**

To punch or strike.
**Change one letter.**

Part of a fish.
**Take away one letter.**

An adult drink made from grapes.
**Add one letter.**

On your face below your mouth.
**Take away two letters, then add one.**

What you do with a lollipop.
**Change one letter.**

---

Daily Word Ladders: Grades 2-3 © Timothy Rasinski, Published by Scholastic Teaching Resources
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

A flat pot for cooking.
Rearrange the letters.

To flow slowly.
Add one letter.

A large body of water.
Change one letter.

Golfers put a golf ball on this.
Take away a letter.

To attempt.
Take away three letters.

A place to keep food.
Add three letters.

What you do when you nap.
Add one letter.

With your eyes, you ___.
Change one letter.

A hot drink.
Change one letter.

Gives us shade outdoors.
Take away one letter, then add two.

A place to keep food.
Add three letters.

n a p
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

If you feel sorry for someone, you feel this.  
Change one letter.

Something men wear around their necks.  
Change one letter.

Short for Thomas.  
Change one letter.

A toddler.  
Change one letter.

A part of the foot.  
Change one letter.

A pastry often filled with fruit.  
Take away two letters, then add one.

Smaller than a city.  
Add one letter.

Trucks might do this to cars that have broken down.  
Change one letter.

Name ____________________________
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

A vehicle that can fly.
Add one letter.

A flat pot used for cooking.
Take away one letter.

A country in Europe where Spanish is spoken.
Add one letter.

Two of something.
Add one letter.

A feeling of hurt.
Change one letter.

Steps to getting something done.
Take away one letter.

To breathe heavily, like a dog after a run.
Add one letter.

The distance between two things.
Take away one letter.

Name ________________________________
Name _________________________________

Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

A small piece of something.
Take away one letter.

The winner.
Short for champion.
Change two letters.

To put in the ground to grow.
Add one letter.

A vehicle that flies.
Change one letter.

Not on time.
Take away five letters.

A dish.
Add one letter.

Steps to accomplish something.
Take away one letter.

A sound or song you repeat over and over.
Change two letters.

Short name for a kind of ape.
Change one letter.

The winner.
Short for champion.
Change two letters.

A small piece of something.
Take away one letter.

chocolate
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

Not big.
Add one letter.

If you are a man or a boy, you are ___.
Change one letter.

A grin.
Rearrange letters.

A green citrus fruit that looks like a lemon.
Change one letter.

Not early, but ___.
Take away two letters, then add one.

Another word for weak. An animal that hurts its leg is ___.
Change one letter.

Slippery goop you might not want to put your hand in.
Add one letter.

A distance of 5,280 feet.
Take away one letter.

A type of shopping center.
Change one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

A building in which people live. **Add one letter.**

Where you live. **Take away one letter, then add two.**

Covers your head. **Change one letter.**

To have been seated. **Take away one letter.**

What you yell at an animal to send it away. **Add one letter.**

An animal a cat likes to chase. **Change one letter.**

A long tube that carries water. **Change one letter.**

Opposite of cold. **Change one letter.**

A rodent that looks like a large mouse. **Change one letter.**

A little fight. **Change one letter.**
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

The month after April.
Change one letter.

You can clean floors with this.
Change one letter.

A store.
Change one letter.

To drink in small amounts.
Take away one letter.

The edge or rim of a container.
Take away two letters, then rearrange the rest.

A chart or diagram that shows the layout of places.
Change one letter.

To jump up and down.
Take away one letter.

A large boat.
Add one letter.

To slide on something slippery.
Add one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. The amount you pay to do or use something.
   Take away the first three letters.
   Coffee

2. These are found at the end of our legs.
   Add one letter.

3. A ___ of paper.
   Take away one letter, then add two.

4. Frozen rain.
   Change one letter.

5. What we usually do at night.
   Change one letter.

6. Animals that give us wool.
   Change one letter.

7. The ___ steps were hard to climb.
   Change one letter.

8. Golfers use this to hit a ball from.
   Take away two letters.

9. Another type of hot drink.
   Change one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

The past tense of *bite*. Yesterday I ___ into an apple.
**Change one letter.**

Not good.
**Change one letter.**

A woman who is paid to clean houses.
**Change one letter.**

Today I say hello, yesterday I ___ hello.
**Add one letter.**

Found on the beach.
**Take away one letter.**

Instead of standing, I think I’ll ___.
**Change one letter.**

To make an offer to buy something. Rhymes with *rid*.
**Change one letter.**

Angry.
**Take away one letter.**

Gave money for something.
**Change one letter.**

Unhappy.
**Take away one letter.**

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Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. A sloping surface, like for skateboarding. Change one letter.
   - damp

2. To walk with heavy steps. Rhymes with lamp. Change one letter.
   - walk

   - talk

4. Used to catch animals. Take away one letter.
   - catt

   - ball

6. If you desire something, you it. Change one letter.
   - find

7. To have gone somewhere. Change one letter.
   - went

8. Add one letter.
   - lamp

   - amp
Name ________________________________

Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

A place with little rain.
Take away one letter.

A strong string for tying things.
Change one letter.

A flower that grows on a thorny bush.
Rearrange letters.

To put things into categories.
Take away two letters.

A place to go for vacation.
Change two letters.

When fruit is ready to eat, it’s ___.
Change one letter.

Painful.
Change one letter.

A large city in Italy.
Change one letter.

Daily Word Ladders: Grades 2-3 © Timothy Rasinski, Published by Scholastic Teaching Resources
Name ____________________________

Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

A loud noise.
Change one letter.

To remove something is to get ___ of it.
Change one letter.

A boy or man is called ___.
Change one letter.

Line from “The Little Drummer Boy”: pa ___
pum pum pum.
Take away two vowels, then add one.

A musical noise made with your lips closed.
Change one letter.

A color.
Change one letter.

The outer part of a wheel.
Change one letter.

A musical noise made with your lips closed.
Change one letter.

Enough space for something.
Change one letter.

What you do with a book.
Add one letter.

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Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

Name

To move toward a place.
Change one letter.

A large city in Italy.
Change one letter.

A place for learning.
Add two letters.

Flexible rope.
Rhymes with bored.
Change one letter.

Painful.
Change one letter.

Somewhat cold; not hot.
Change two letters.

The middle of an apple.
Change one letter.

Opposite of less.
Rearrange letters.

Not all but ___.
Change one letter.

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Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

4. What you may say to an animal to make it go away. Add one letter.
5. The hard covering over a wound that is healing. Change one letter.
8. Short for laboratory. Change one letter.
9. To walk slowly behind others. Change one letter.
10. You use this for walking. Change one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

**Finders Keepers**

1. What you might answer if someone asks how you are. **Change one letter.**
   - **f i n d**

2. When dry logs are lit with a match, it makes this. **Change one letter.**
   - ___ ___ ___ ___

3. Golfers yell this as a warning. Rhymes with *more*. **Change one letter.**
   - ___ ___ ___ ___

4. This ___ that; him ___ her. **Take away two letters.**
   - ___ ___

5. Opposite of less. **Add two letters.**
   - ___ ___ ___ ___

6. A city in Italy. **Rearrange letters.**
   - ___ ___ ___ ___

7. Not all of something, but ____. **Change one letter.**
   - ___ ___ ___ ___

8. Painful. **Change one letter.**
   - ___ ___ ___ ___

9. A flower with thorns. **Rearrange letters.**
   - ___ ___ ___ ___

10. To misplace something. **Change one letter.**
    - ___ ___ ___ ___
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. You need this for soccer. Change one letter.
4. A small, sweet fruit with tiny seeds. Take away two letters, then add one.
5. A truck is sometimes called a big ___. Change one letter.
7. The noise made by a bell. Add one letter.
8. Daily Word Ladders: Grades 2-3 © Timothy Rasinski, Published by Scholastic Teaching Resources
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. A bird makes this sound. Change one letter.
2. Something very small, like Willie Winkie. Take away two letters.
3. Another word for us. Take away one letter.
5. Things that go together, like a chess ___. Change one letter.
6. To place something. Change the vowel.
Name ____________________________________________

Read the clues, then write the words.  
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

**Feelings**

1. Not happy.  
   **Change one letter.**

2. An old nickname meaning *dad*.  
   **Change one letter.**

3. Liquid that flows through a plant or tree.  
   **Take away two letters.**

4. To lean or fall over.  
   **Change one letter.**

5. The covering for a pot.  
   **Change one letter.**

6. The edge of your mouth.  
   **Change one letter.**

7. To hit lightly.  
   **Change one letter.**

8. A young male child. Rhymes with *mad*.  
   **Change one letter.**

9. Too sweet or sentimental. Rhymes with *happy*.  
   **Change one letter.**

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Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

You’ll find a light ___ in a lamp.
**Change one letter.**

To hit with your head.
**Change one letter.**

A baseball glove.
**Change one letter.**

You make this when you curl your hand up.
**Add one letter.**

He ___ a fire in the fireplace.
**Take away two letters.**

A male cow.
**Change two letters.**

A mixed-breed dog is also called this.
**Change one letter.**

A light rain.
**Change one letter.**

To be the right size or shape.
**Change one letter.**
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

Two things that are alike are the ___.
Add one letter.

Meat that comes from a pig.
Change one letter.

A precious stone.
Change one letter.

A wager or guess.
Take away one letter.

It makes a ringing noise.
Change one letter.

Something you play.
Change one letter.

Short for Samuel.
Change one letter.

The edge of a piece of clothing.
Change one letter.

To gain or receive something.
Change one letter.

It holds up pants.
Change one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

Not fat.
Take away one letter.

Soil.
Change one letter.

A vehicle that carries things.
Add one letter.

A winged animal that flies at night.
Change one letter.

To win or be victorious.
Change one letter.

Not clean.
Add one letter.

You throw this pointed object at a board.
Change one letter.

An animal that is often a pet.
Change one letter.

A wager or guess.
Take away one letter.

Something you eat, maybe with rice.
Change one letter.

Name ____________________________
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. To toss, fling, or hurl through the air. Add two letters. Row

2. A large black bird. Take away two letters, then add one.

3. A large group of people. Add one letter.


5. You wear this when it’s cold. Add one letter.

6. For traveling on water. Take away two letters, then add one.

7. The opposite of sink. Take away one letter, then add two.

8. An animal that gives milk. Take away two letters.

Read the clues, then write the words. 
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

Better than everything else. 
Add one letter.

A wager or gamble for money. 
Take away three letters.

More than good. 
Change one letter.

More wet. 
Add three letters.

Not dry. 
Change one letter.

The ability to say clever or funny things. 
Change one letter.

To strike. 
Change one letter.

Put out of sight. 
Take away two letters, then add one.

A head covering often attached to a coat. 
Change one letter.

Better and Better

---

good
Name ________________________________

Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

**Winter Weather**

1. **Brave or daring.**  
   Change one letter.

2. **To shape something,**  
   like clay.  
   Change one letter.

3. **Not bought, but .**  
   Add one letter.

4. **Opposite of win.**  
   Rearrange letters.

5. **The bottom of your foot.**  
   Change one letter.

6. **Not young.**  
   Take away one letter.

7. **You need it for smelling.**  
   Change one letter.

8. **Another word for the present time.**  
   Take away two letters, then add one.

9. **When it’s very cold,**  
   it can .  
   Add one letter.

10. **To bend and crease.**  
    Change one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

If you can't find something, it's ___.
Take away two letters, then add one.

A light rain.
Change one letter.

A set of tools for a purpose, like a model airplane ___.
Change one letter.

A candle is ___ with a match.
Take away one letter.

To grip with your teeth.
Change one letter.

You can fly this.
Add one letter.

Chomped on something.
Change one letter.

When you go to the grocery, you may bring a ___ of what you need.
Change one letter.

The greatest amount.
Change one letter.

Name ________________________________
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. A flat block of something, like a chocolate ___.
   **Take away one letter.**
   **Bear**

2. A mark on the skin from an old wound.
   **Add one letter.**
   __ __ __ __

3. Concern, as in “I like to take ___ of my new puppy.”
   **Change one letter.**
   __ __ __ __

4. Automobile.
   **Take away one letter.**
   __ __ __ __

5. This is in the night sky.
   **Change one letter.**
   __ __ __ __

6. A flap or loop attached to something. Rhymes with **lab**.
   **Change one letter.**
   __ __ __ __

7. A black, gooey substance for patching roads.
   **Take away one letter.**
   __ __ __ __

8. **Uncovered.**
   **Add one letter.**
   __ __ __ __

9. Where you take a bath.
   **Change one letter.**
   __ __ __ __

10. A young bear.
    **Change one letter.**
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

Name

1. Lots of energy.
   Change one letter.

2. An animal that lives in a house.
   Change one letter.

3. A hole in the ground.
   Change one letter.

4. Saliva.
   Add one letter.

5. What you do in a chair.
   Take away one letter.

   Change one letter.

7. Not happy.
   Change one letter.

8. Grass attached to earth.
   Change one letter.

9. Another name for a fizzy drink.
   Add one letter.

   _____   _____   _____
Name ______________________________________

Read the clues, then write the words.  
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

**Animal Enemies**

1. A thick mist of water vapor in the air. 
   **Change one letter.**

2. A small, sweet fruit with tiny seeds. 
   **Change one letter.**

3. To be the right size or shape. 
   **Change one letter.**

4. What you do in a chair. 
   **Change one letter.**

5. To have been seated. 
   **Change one letter.**

6. A little fight. 
   **Add one letter.**

7. A sound made when an egg hits the ground. 
   **Add one letter.**

8. To touch someone on the head. 
   **Take away two letters.**

9. Tigers and lions belong to this animal family. 
   **Change one letter.**

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Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

3. To take something that’s not yours. Change one letter.
4. To get well. Take away two letters.
5. Something done secretly is done with ___. Add two letters.
6. Vapor made by heating water. Add one letter.
7. Fitness or wellness. Take away two letters, then add one.
9. You do this with your ears. Change one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. Food for pigs is sometimes called ___.
   Change one letter.

2. A part of your foot.
   Change one letter.

3. Opposite of bottom.
   Take away one letter.

4. Something to play with.
   Change one letter.

5. If you ripped something, you ___ it.
   Add one letter.

6. A tiny hole in your skin through which you sweat.
   Change one letter.

7. A plant cell that develops into a new plant. Rhymes with more.
   Add one letter.

8. To halt.
   Change one letter.

9. A place to shop.
   Change one letter.
Name ______________________________

Read the clues, then write the words. 
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

Cross-Country

1. Where the sun sets. 
   Add one letter.

2. Beauty and the ___. 
   Add one letter.

3. Not fresh. 
   Rearrange letters.

   Change one letter.

5. Short for Patricia. 
   Change one letter.

6. To judge or grade something. 
   Change one letter.

7. An animal you keep in your home. 
   Change one letter.

8. A rodent that looks like a large mouse. 
   Take away one letter.

   Rearrange letters.

10. The fewest or lowest. 
    Change one letter.

11. Change one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. **Begin**
   - **Change one letter.**
   - **Rearrange letters.**
   - **I love ___ the oldest in my family.**

2. **Change one letter.**
   - **To take something to someone.**

3. **Change one letter.**
   - **A piece of jewelry.**
   - **Take away one letter.**

4. **Change one letter.**
   - **What the phone did.**
   - **Add one letter.**

5. **Change one letter.**
   - **This moves air.**
   - **Take away one letter.**

6. **Change one letter.**
   - **A long, pointed tooth.**
   - **Take away one letter.**

7. **More than one man.**
   - **Change one letter.**

8. **Means the opposite of the first word in this puzzle.**
   - **Take away one letter.**

9. **To repair or fix something.**
   - **Add one letter.**

10. **I love the oldest in my family.**
    - **Rearrange letters.**
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

**Very bad.**
*Change one letter.*

**A game played with horses and riders.**
*Rearrange letters.*

**To see.**
*Change one letter.*

**Worn on the foot.**
*Take away one letter.*

**A branch or twig from a tree or bush.**
*Add one letter.*

**A boy’s name.**
*Change one letter.*

**Something you swim in.**
*Rearrange letters.*

**What you must make with string to tie a bow.**
*Change one letter.*

**You can open and shut this with a key.**
*Change one letter.*

**If a store ___s something, it sells it.**
*Rhymes with lock.*

**Very bad.**
*Change one letter.*

**Something you swim in.**
*Rearrange letters.*

**To see.**
*Change one letter.*

**Worn on the foot.**
*Take away one letter.*

**A game played with horses and riders.**
*Rearrange letters.*

**A boy’s name.**
*Change one letter.*

**A game played with horses and riders.**
*Rearrange letters.*

**To see.**
*Change one letter.*

**Worn on the foot.**
*Take away one letter.*

**A branch or twig from a tree or bush.**
*Add one letter.*

**A boy’s name.**
*Change one letter.*
Name

Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

**Ant**

What ants make when they build their homes. **Take away one letter.**

A song or phrase repeated over and over. **Add two letters.**

A tool that holds or presses two parts together. **Change one letter.**

A mischievous child. **Take away one letter.**

A swelling or a bump. **Change one letter.**

A tool that holds or presses two parts together. **Change one letter.**

Short for *chimpanzee*. **Add two letters.**

To walk slowly, favoring one leg. **Change one letter.**

This lights up when we turn it on. **Take away one letter.**

Short for *champion*. **Change two letters.**
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. Attached to your shoulder. 
   **Army**  
   Take away one letter.

2. To move your hand back and forth to say hello or good-bye. 
   **Arm**  
   Change one letter.

3. To tend to or have affection for. 
   **Harm**  
   Add one letter.

4. A piece of jewelry that may dangle from a bracelet. 
   **Jarm**  
   Add one letter.

5. A vehicle for carrying things. 
   **Varmy**  
   Take away one letter.

6. Hair that is not straight might be. 
   **Spray**  
   Change one letter.

7. An illustration that gives information. 
   **Array**  
   Change one letter.

8. Injury or hurt. 
   **Arry**  
   Add one letter.

9. A hole in the side of a hill or cliff. 
   **Harmy**  
   Change one letter.

10. Automobile. 
    **Varmy**  
    Take away one letter.

11. Not the army, air force, or marines, but the. 
    **Armie**  
    Change one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

A family group.  
Add one letter.

A vessel used for cooking and frying food.  
Take away one letter.

A liquid that you use to color things.  
Add one letter.

A piece of something.  
Change one letter.

Soil.  
Take away one letter.

A small spear you throw in a game.  
Change one letter.

To breathe heavily.  
Change one letter.

A container used to hold things, as in “throw it in the trash ___.”  
Change one letter.

Hurt.  
Take away one letter.

Not dirty.  
Add one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

When you change a flat tire, you need a ___.
Take away two letters.

A young horse.
Change one letter.

To carry or keep something.
Change one letter.

At the northernmost point of Earth, you'll find the North ___.
Change one letter.

A funny story.
Change one letter.

To jab or hit.
Change one letter.

Short for jockey.
Change one letter.

A common sickness.
Change one letter.

An opening in something.
Change one letter.

A heavy jacket.
Change one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. A tame animal.
   Take away four letters.

2. Confined or shut in, as in “___ up.”
   Rhymes with rent.
   Change one letter.

3. A streak of lightning is also called a “___.”
   Change one letter.

4. Twisted or dented.
   Change one letter.

5. You wear this around your waist.
   Change one letter.

6. Opposite of hot.
   Change one letter.

7. A long, flexible rope.
   Change one letter.

8. A young horse.
   Change one letter.

   Add one letter.

10. You eat this on or off the cob.
    Change one letter.

    Change one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. The noise made by a baby. **Change one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __
2. Water almost completely surrounded by land. **Take away one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __
3. Meat from pigs. **Change one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __
4. To walk with a heavy step. Rhymes with *lamp*. **Change one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __ __
5. To stuff too many things into one place. **Add one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __
6. A device for catching things. **Take away one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __ __
7. A painful contraction of muscles. **Add one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __ __
8. A male sheep. **Change one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __
9. Cut and dried grass for animals. **Change one letter.**
   - __ __ __ __ __
10. To attempt. **Take away one letter.**
    - __ __ __ __ __
11. A large serving dish. **Change one letter.**
    - __ __ __ __ __
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. An eating utensil.
   Change one letter.

2. Where there are trees and grass in a city.
   Change one letter.

3. You use this to put a paper up on a bulletin board.
   Change one letter.

   Change one letter.

5. A piece of equipment you need to do a particular job.
   Take away one letter.

6. A fee you must pay, as on some bridges.
   Change one letter.

7. To put into a box or bag.
   Change one letter.

8. To speak.
   Change one letter.

9. Where there are trees and grass in a city.
   Change one letter.

10. Meat from a pig.
    Change one letter.

11. What thread is wound on.
    Change one letter.

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Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

1. To tie something up. If you ___ a book, you fasten its pages together and put a cover on it. Change one letter.

2. Nice or gentle. Change one letter.

3. To locate something. Change one letter.

4. The rough outer layer of some foods. Change one letter.

5. Another word for brain. Change one letter.

6. A fish uses this to move in the water. Take away one letter.

7. The end. Add three letters.

8. A creature that swims. Take away two letters.
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

Along with trick, this is often said at Halloween.
Change one letter.

Something you do to cheese.
Change one letter.

To copy a picture, you might ___ it.
Add one letter.

A framework for holding or hanging things, like a coat ___.
Take away one letter.

What trains ride on.
Change one letter.

Wonderful or marvelous.
Rearrange the last three letters.

An elegant way of moving. Also, a girl’s name.
Change one letter.

A contest to reach a goal first.
Change one letter.

To break or split.
Change one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words. Start at the bottom and climb to the top.

2. Went to the bottom. Change one letter.
3. Holds water in a bathroom or kitchen. Change one letter.
4. A small animal that looks like a weasel. Add one letter.
5. This is inside your pen. Take away two letters.
6. A place where grain is ground into flour. Change one letter.
7. To smell bad. Add one letter.
Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.
Name ________________________________

Read the clues, then write the words.
Start at the bottom and climb to the top.
Answer Key

Counting Up, page 7
few, new, now, mow, meow, men, hen, ten, tan, man, many

Home, Sweet Home, page 8
wigwam, wig, wag, sag, Sam, same, some, home

In the Doghouse, page 9
dog, dot, Don, nod, cod, code, coke, cone, bone

Shrinking Sizes, page 10
little, lit, it, ill, mill, mall, small

All Wet, page 11
wet, we, well, belt, bet, bat, bad, Brad, bran, ran, rain

Go, Team!, page 12
team, meat, tame, take, tale, tall, toll, ton, torn, worn, work

Sweet Seasons, page 13
spring, string, sting, sing, sling, slim, slime, slimmer, simmer, summer

Art Smart, page 14
art, cart, car, cat, scat, sat, saw, raw, straw, draw

Sleepytime, page 15
sleep, seep, sheep, peep, peel, pail, pal, lap, clap, slap, sap, nap

More or Less, page 16
most, mast, mask, cask, cast, coast, cost, lost, last, least

Barbershop, page 17
hair, chair, char, chart, charm, harm, arm, ram, rat, rut, cut

Inside Out, page 18
door, floor, flop, lop, lip, lit, wit, win, wind, window

Weighty Matters, page 19
pint, paint, pant, chant, chart, cart, tart, part, art, quart

Restful Vacation, page 20
hotel, hot, hat, hate, haste, host, shot, shoot, sheet, sleep

Gardening, page 21
flower, flow, slow, show, shower, shopper, shop, stop, top, pot

Birdsong, page 22
bird, bid, bed, shed, sled, slid, ship, hip, chip, chirp

Shady Glade, page 23
shade, shape, shame, same, Sam, sap, sip, seep, see, tee, tree

School Days, page 24
school, cool, coal, coat, cat, can’t, cent, gent, dent, student

Transportation, page 25
boat, float, moat, mat, pat, pan, plan, plank, plant, plane

Good Cooking, page 26
fried, freed, feed, fed, bed, bad, bar, bark, barn, bare, baked

America’s Pastime, page 27
base, bass, mass, miss, mist, mast, melt, mall, small, ball

Sweet Treats, page 28
candy, can, cat, sat, Sam, seem, seam, seat, sweat, sweet
Finish Line, page 29
start, tart, cart, cast, cash, wash, wish, dish, fish, finish

Fireworks, page 30
fire, tire, tile, pile, pill, hill, hall, hand, handle, candle

Opposites Attract, page 31
black, block, clock, lock, look, loot, lot, hot, hit, white

Seasoning Selection, page 32
salt, sat, hat, hot, shot, shop, hop, pop, popper, pepper

Displays of Affection, page 33
hug, hog, hoe, shoe, show, slow, low, lot, lit, kit, kite, kiss

Neigh-bors, page 34
horse, hoe, hop, hope, cope, cone, bone, bond, pond, pony

Giving and Receiving, page 35
present, sent, gent, bent, belt, bet, bit, lit, lift, gift

Getting There, page 36
walk, talk, stalk, stall, tall, tell, ten, tent, rent, runt, run

Splish Splash, page 37
swim, swam, swan, wand, wind, win, wind, wild, wood, wool, pool

Fancy Footwear, page 38
shoe, shop, shot, shock, sock, dock, dot, hot, hoot, boot

Shopping Spree, page 39
shop, ship, hip, hill, hall, shall, small, mall

Sweet Things, page 40
candy, sandy, sand, hand, hang, sang, sad, sat, swat, sweat, sweet

Woodsman, page 41
chop, shop, slop, loop, coop, hoop, hood, food, wood

Thar She Blows!, page 42
whale, while, whole, hole, home, some, sole, sold, sod, pod

Holiday Candy, page 43
candy, Andy, and, sand, band, brand, bran, brain, rain, main, mane, cane

Car Trip, page 44
car, care, dare, date, late, slate, state, ate, gate, gape, gap, gas

Friendship, page 45
friend, end, trend, tend, send, sand, band, bad, pad, pal

Great Grapes, page 46
grape, grope, rope, rose, raisin

Busy Bees, page 47
bee, bet, bat, bit, hit, fit, fin, fine, file, fire, five, hive

Ship Ahoy, page 48
ship, shop, stop, step, steep, sleep, sheep, sheet, sleet, fleet

Score!, page 49
home, Rome, more, mare, rare, rate, rat, rut, run

Personality Change, page 50
nice, mice, mine, mint, pint, pinto, into, ton, ten, men, mean
Ride 'Em, page 51
horse, worse, worm, warm, war, par, park, perk, pork, pony

Love Life, page 52
love, dove, dome, home, hole, mole, mule, mile, Mike, like

Underfoot, page 53
rug, bug, bag, rag, rat, star, scar, car, carp, carpet

Bare Feet, page 54
shoe, show, shot, hot, hat, at, ant, and, sand, sandal

Color Change, page 55
blue, clue, club, cub, rub, rug, rig, rip, rim, rid, red

Deep Freeze, page 56
ice, nice, twice, lice, slice, slick, lick, luck, suck, sub, cub, cube

In the Kitchen, page 57
pots, spot, pot, pet, pets, step, stop, top, tap, apt, Pat, pans

Giving Thanks, page 58
thanks, think, thin, then, hen, Ben, bent, lent, lint, live, living, giving

On the Range, page 59
cow, bow, bowl, blow, flow, fowl, owl, low, tow, toy, boy

Vehicles, page 60
truck, tuck, tack, stack, stuck, stick, stir, star, tar, tart, cart, car

Hungry!, page 61
lunch, bunch, bunk, bank, ban, bun, bin, din, dinner

Opposites Attract #2, page 62
black, lack, lick, chick, chin, win, wine, fine, fin, fit, hit, white

Nap Time, page 63
nap, pan, pantry, try, tree, tee, tea, sea, see, seep, sleep

City Living, page 64
city, pity, pie, tie, toe, Tom, tot, tow, town

Air Travel, page 65
air, pair, pain, Spain, span, pan, pant, plant, plan, plane

Snack Food, page 66
chocolate, late, plate, plane, plan, plant, chant, champ, chimp, chip

A Matter of Size, page 67
large, late, lame, lime, slime, smile, mile, male, mall, small

Catnip, page 68
cat, scat, spat, sat, rat, hat, hot, home, hose, house, mouse

Showers and Flowers, page 69
April, lip, slip, sip, ship, shop, hop, mop, map, May

Coffee Break, page 70
coffee, fee, feet, sheet, sleet, sleep, sheep, steep, tee, tea

Simon Says, page 71
stand, sand, sad, said, paid, maid, mad, bad, bid, bit, sit

Wet and Wetter, page 72
damp, ramp, cramp, tramp, trap, part, wart, want, went, wet
After Dinner, page 73
dessert, desert, resort, sort, sore, rose,
Rome, rope, ripe, pie

Bookworm, page 74
book, boom, room, rum, hum, him, rim,
rid, red, read

Daily Journey, page 75
home, come, some, Rome, more, sore, core,
cord, cool, school

Top to Bottom, page 76
arm, ram, ham, hat, cat, scat, scab, cab, lab,
lag, leg

Finders Keepers, page 77
find, fine, fire, fore, or, more, Rome, some,
sore, rose, lose

Tolling Time, page 78
bell, ball, bull, full, fall, fill, fig, rig, ring

Some Like It Sweet, page 79
sweet, tweet, wee, we, wet, set, pet, put,
out, our, sour

Feelings, page 80
happy, pappy, sappy, sap, tap, tip, lip, lid,
lad, sad

Bright Light, page 81
light, lit, fit, fist, mist, mutt, butt,
bull, bulb

Play Ball!, page 82
ball, bell, belt, bet, get, gem, hem, ham,
Sam, same, game

Good, Clean Fun, page 83
clean, lean, bean, beat, bet, bat, cat, cart,
dart, dirt, dirty

Gently Down the Stream, page 84
row, throw, crow, crowd, cow, cod, cot,
coat, float, boat

Better and Better, page 85
good, hood, hid, hit, wit, wet, wetter,
better, bet, best

Winter Weather, page 86
cold, bold, fold, mold, old, sold, sole, lose,
nose, now, snow

Brrrr!, page 87
frost, lost, most, mist, list, lit, bit, kit, kite,
bite

Baby Animals, page 88
bear, bar, bare, care, car, scar, star, tab,
tub, cub

Fizzy Drinks, page 89
pop, pep, pet, pit, spit, sit, Sid, sad, sod,
soda

Animal Enemies, page 90
dog, fog, fig, fit, sit, sat, spat, splat, pat, cat

Five Senses, page 91
see, sea, tea, team, steam, steal, stealth,
health, heal, hear

Shop ‘til You Drop, page 92
shop, slop, stop, toy, toe, tore, pore,
sore, store

Cross-Country, page 93
east, beast, least, stale, tale, late, rate, rat,
pat, pet, wet, west

The Whole Story, page 94
begin, being, bring, ring, rang, fang, fan,
man, men, mend, end
Rags to Riches, page 95
rich, Rick, sick, stick, stock, sock, lock, look, loop, polo, pool, poor

Insect Incline, page 96
ant, chant, champ, clamp, lamp, lump, limp, imp, chimp, chill, hill

In the Service, page 97
army, arm, harm, charm, chart, cart, car, care, cave, wave, wavy, navy

Tidying Up, page 98
dirty, dirt, dart, part, pant, paint, pain, pan, can, clan, clean

Outerwear, page 99
jacket, jack, jock, joke, poke, pole, hole, hold, cold, colt, coat

Brass Band, page 100
trumpet, pet, pelt, pent, bent, belt, bolt, colt, cold, cord, corn, horn

Crybaby, page 101
baby, bay, hay, ham, ram, cram, cramp, tramp, trap, tray, try, cry

Utensils, page 102
spoon, spool, stool, tool, toll, tall, talk, tack, pack, park, pork, fork

Wildlife, page 103
bird, bind, mind, kind, rind, find, fin, finish, fish

Boo!, page 104
trick, track, crack, rack, race, trace, grace, grate, great, treat

Bedridden, page 105
sick, sack, sank, sink, stink, ink, mink, milk, mill, ill