WORD LADDER EXAMPLES WITH ANSWERS

SIX PUZZLES FROM EASY TO HARD, EACH WITH A CLUE FOR EVERY MISSING WORD

A word ladder joins two words by changing one letter at a time. Every step must be a real word of the same length, and you may not add, remove or rearrange letters. These six come from our page of word ladder examples, set out to solve on paper.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Read the start word at the top and the finish word at the bottom.
2. Change one letter to make the first missing word. Its clue is beside it.
3. Keep going, one letter at a time, until you reach the finish word.
4. Stuck? Work upwards from the finish word and meet in the middle.

A QUICK EXAMPLE

C O L D	*Start word*
C O R D	*L becomes R: a length of rope*
C A R D	*O becomes A: sent on a birthday*
W A R D	*C becomes W: a room of hospital beds*
W A R M	*Finish word*

WHAT IS INSIDE

- Four-Letter Word Ladders: 1 and 2 are Easy, 3 and 4 are Medium (pages 2 and 3)
- Five-Letter Word Ladders: 5 and 6 are Hard (page 4)
- The Answers (page 5), then 100 more ladders in the book (page 6)

Use a pencil: a wrong turn rubs out.
Printing tip: choose Fit To Page, and this prints on A4 or US Letter paper.

The Missing Word Files on Amazon: **Black-And-White** UK · US | **Colour** UK · US

LADDERS 1 AND 2

1. Camp To Salt

Easy · 3 Missing Words

C A M P	*Start*
	1 Arrived
	2 Identical
	3 When a shop cuts its prices
S A L T	*Finish*

2. Bond To Pack

Easy · 3 Missing Words

B O N D	*Start*
	1 A group of musicians
	2 Where you keep your savings
	3 The opposite of front
P A C K	*Finish*

LADDERS 3 AND 4

3. Self To Tank

Medium · 4 Missing Words

S E L F	*Start*
	1 Swap goods for money
	2 Say; let someone know
	3 Like a giraffe
	4 Chat; have a natter
T A N K	*Finish*

4. Harm To Poem

Medium · 4 Missing Words

H A R M	*Start*
	1 A male red deer
	2 A piece of the whole
	3 A harbour town
	4 Someone who writes verse
P O E M	*Finish*

LADDERS 5 AND 6

5. Thing To Track

Hard · 3 Missing Words

T H I N G	*Start*
	1 'I ___, therefore I am'
	2 Like a brick, some say
	3 A magician's stock in trade
T R A C K	*Finish*

6. Sport To Swift

Hard · 3 Missing Words

S P O R T	*Start*
	1 In ___ supply
	2 It has a collar and buttons
	3 A spell at work; a change of gear
S W I F T	*Finish*

NO PEEKING UNTIL YOU HAVE TRIED

THE ANSWERS

FOUR-LETTER WORD LADDERS: EASY

1. **CAMP** → CAME → SAME → SALE → **SALT**
2. **BOND** → BAND → BANK → BACK → **PACK**

FOUR-LETTER WORD LADDERS: MEDIUM

3. **SELF** → SELL → TELL → TALL → TALK → **TANK**
4. **HARM** → HART → PART → PORT → POET → **POEM**

FIVE-LETTER WORD LADDERS: HARD

5. **THING** → THINK → THICK → TRICK → **TRACK**
6. **SPORT** → SHORT → SHIRT → SHIFT → **SWIFT**

Each of these routes is the only shortest route between its two end words in our 5,861-word checking list. A machine can check the words and the steps. Whether a clue is fair is for you to judge.

WHAT MAKES A LADDER HARD?

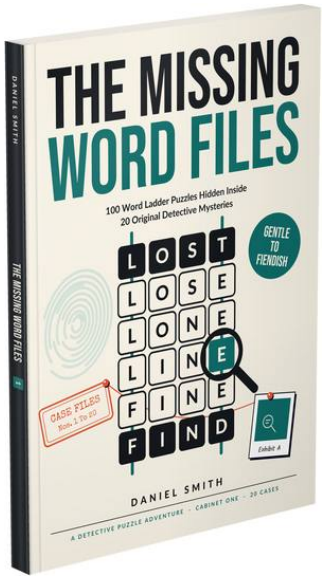
- Word length: five-letter words have fewer neighbours than four-letter words.
- Number of steps: more missing words mean more places to go wrong.
- Detours: in harder ladders a letter has to change and later change again.
- The clues: a saying with a gap is harder than a plain definition.

WHERE THESE PUZZLES COME FROM

WANT MORE? TRY THE BOOK

THE MISSING WORD FILES

The Missing Word Files is a word ladder puzzle book for adults with a story. It hides 100 word ladders inside 20 linked cosy detective cases. Each solved ladder gives one evidence letter, and five letters spell the missing word that cracks the case.



THE FACTS

- **A paperback of 172 pages, 7 x 10 inches**
- **100 word ladders in 20 detective cases**
- **20 bonus ladders with no clues**
- **Four levels: Gentle, Steady, Tricky and Fiendish**

BUY THE BOOK ON AMAZON

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