THE MISSING WORD FILES

Word Puzzles For Seniors
A Printable Set

Eight gentle word ladders to solve with a pencil, two to a page, in large print: all the text in this set is printed at 16 point or larger. Each missing word has a plain clue beside it, and nothing is timed.

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. Every step must be a real word. Do not add, remove or move letters.

What Is In This Set

- **Pages 3 to 6: eight Gentle ladders**
- **Page 7: hints, if you want them**
- **Page 8: all the answers**

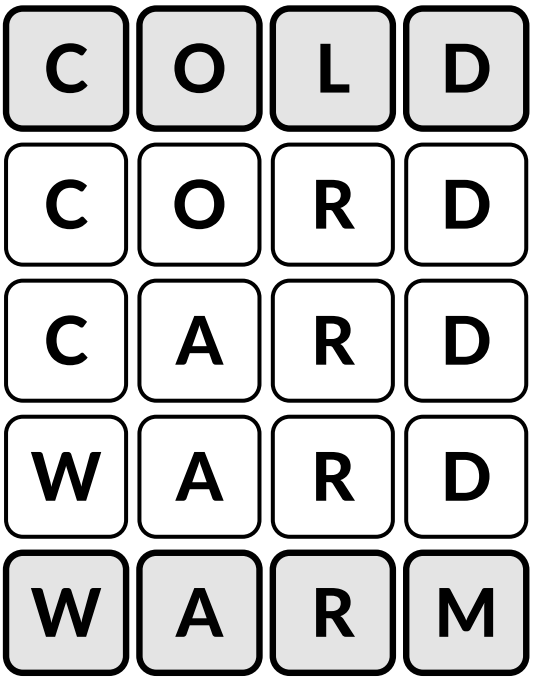
Printing tip: print at full size on A4 paper, one page to a sheet. A soft 2B pencil makes a dark line and rubs out.

The book on Amazon: **Black-And-White** UK · US | **Colour** UK · US

Before You Start

A Worked Example

Here is COLD changed into WARM in four steps. One letter changes each time, and every step is a real word.



Start word

L becomes R: a length of rope

O becomes A: sent on a birthday

C becomes W: a room of hospital beds

Finish word

For Carers And Activity Coordinators

Print one copy of the ladder pages for each person, single-sided and at full size, and keep the hints page and the answers page for yourself. Start with Ladder 1 as a group: read the start word and the finish word aloud, then read each clue in turn and take suggestions before anyone writes. After that, let people work in pairs, one reading the clues and one writing, with pencils and rubbers on the table. Two ladders are plenty for one sitting, so stop while it is still fun and keep the rest for next time. Offer a hint only when someone asks for one, and read out the answers at the end. You may print as many copies as your group needs. Please do not sell them.

Ladders 1 And 2

1. Belt To Roof

Gentle · 3 Missing Words

B E L T	*Start*
	1 Slide it across to lock the door
	2 A wellington, for one
	3 The part of a plant under the soil
R O O F	*Finish*

2. Deer To Term

Gentle · 3 Missing Words

D E E R	*Start*
	1 How a letter begins
	2 A drop from a crying eye
	3 Eleven players on the pitch
T E R M	*Finish*

Ladders 3 And 4

3. Full To Task

Gentle · 3 Missing Words

F U L L	*Start*
	1 Trip and go down
	2 Like a giraffe
	3 Chat; have a natter
T A S K	*Finish*

4. Folk To Pool

Gentle · 3 Missing Words

F O L K	*Start*
	1 Bend paper in half
	2 What you eat
	3 A silly person; a fruit-and-cream pudding
P O O L	*Finish*

Ladders 5 And 6

5. Best To Hand

Gentle · 3 Missing Words

B E S T	*Start*
	1 Not straight; crooked
	2 A curve in the road
	3 A group of musicians
H A N D	*Finish*

6. Fact To Woke

Gentle · 3 Missing Words

F A C T	*Start*
	1 The front of your head
	2 Not real; a copy
	3 Stop sleeping
W O K E	*Finish*

Ladders 7 And 8

7. Nuts To Sure

Gentle · 3 Missing Words

N	U	T	S	*Start*
				1 Slices with a knife
				2 Sweet and pretty, like a kitten
				3 A remedy that makes you well
S	U	R	E	*Finish*

8. Item To Keen

Gentle · 3 Missing Words

I	T	E	M	*Start*
				1 A flower's stalk
				2 Appear to be
				3 Spotted; caught sight of
K	E	E	N	*Finish*

Only If You Want Them

Hints

Each hint tells you which letter of the word to change at each step, counting from the left: 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th. It does not tell you the new letter.

1. Belt To Roof	2nd, then 3rd, then 1st, then 4th
2. Deer To Term	3rd, then 1st, then 4th, then 3rd
3. Full To Task	2nd, then 1st, then 4th, then 3rd
4. Folk To Pool	4th, then 3rd, then 4th, then 1st
5. Best To Hand	3rd, then 4th, then 2nd, then 1st
6. Fact To Woke	4th, then 3rd, then 1st, then 2nd
7. Nuts To Sure	1st, then 4th, then 3rd, then 1st
8. Item To Keen	1st, then 2nd, then 4th, then 1st

No Peeking Until You Have Tried

The Answers

1. **BELT** → BOLT → BOOT → ROOT → **ROOF**
2. **DEER** → DEAR → TEAR → TEAM → **TERM**
3. **FULL** → FALL → TALL → TALK → **TASK**
4. **FOLK** → FOLD → FOOD → FOOL → **POOL**
5. **BEST** → BENT → BEND → BAND → **HAND**
6. **FACT** → FACE → FAKE → WAKE → **WOKE**
7. **NUTS** → CUTS → CUTE → CURE → **SURE**
8. **ITEM** → STEM → SEEM → SEEN → **KEEN**

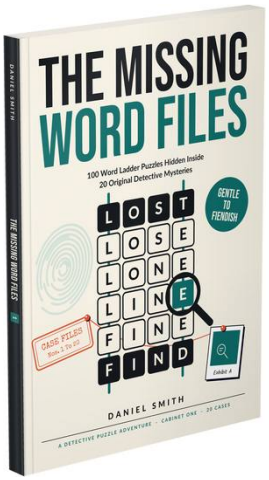
Every word is a common English word, checked by machine, and each ladder has only one shortest route. If your ladder reached the finish in four steps, it should match.

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**
- **Four levels: Gentle, Steady, Tricky and Fiendish**
- **A standard paperback, not a large-print edition**

Buy The Book On Amazon

Black-And-White Edition

Amazon UK £9.97 | Amazon US $12.97

Colour Edition

Amazon UK £12.97 | Amazon US $16.97

Scan For The Website

List prices. Amazon may show a different price on the day.

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