

Name _____ Date _____

Word Ladder

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

The diagram consists of two vertical bars, one on the left and one on the right, connected by five horizontal rungs. On the left side, there are five empty rectangular boxes, each with an arrow pointing from the box to the left vertical bar and then to the corresponding rung. On the right side, there are five empty rectangular boxes, each with an arrow pointing from the box to the right vertical bar and then to the corresponding rung. This layout is designed for students to write words that fit the rungs, starting from the bottom rung and moving upwards.

Source: The word ladder strategy was invented by Timothy Rasinski (2005, *Daily Word Ladders*, New York, NY: Scholastic) and is adapted here with the permission of the author.

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3-Letter Blends Word Ladder

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

The opposite of right or correct
Take away two letters and add "w" to the beginning.

The opposite of weak; if you can lift heavy things you are _____
Add two letters.

What you sing or hear on the radio
Change one letter.

To say the words to a song in a musical way
Take away two letters.

The season when it rains a lot and the flowers bloom
Change one letter.

A small piece of thread; a yo-yo has a long one of these
Change one letter and add one letter.

To take off all your clothes before you take a bath, OR a narrow piece of cloth
Add one letter.

A vacation; you take a car when you go on a long _____
Add one letter.

To tear, like a piece of paper or your pants
Take away one letter.

drip

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Digraphs ch, tch, wh Word Ladder

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

What you do when someone throws you a ball
Change one letter.

To throw a baseball at a batter
Change one letter.

Something that makes you want to scratch
Change one letter.

The bottom part of your face
Change one letter.

To cut in small pieces with a knife
Add one letter.

What you put on pants to cover a hole
Change one letter.

Something you dig on the side of the road to drain water
Add one letter.

A length of something; a ruler has 12 of these
Put all the letters in a different order.

Made from a potato or corn; a crunchy snack you eat with salsa
Change one letter.

hop

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Long a (a_e) Word Ladder

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

What a bat lives in
Change one letter.

To cook in the oven
Change one letter.

A small street; a car must stay in its _____
Take away one letter.

What you put your food on
Add one letter.

The opposite of love
Add one letter.

hat

What you put candles on for your birthday
Change one letter.

A small body of water with fish and boats
Change one letter.

Flies in the air; you can ride on it
Change one letter.

Not early
Change one letter.

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Long i (i_e) Word Ladder

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

The color of clouds
Change one letter and add one letter.

What you do with your teeth to eat an apple
Change one letter.

What you can ride, has two wheels
Change one letter.

To enjoy (love) something or someone
Change one letter.

A long walk in the woods
Change one letter.

What you do when you don't want anyone to find you
Change one letter and take away one letter.

Something on a playground that's fun to slip down on, especially if it's wet
Add one letter.

What you do on a bike
Add one letter.

A square has four of these; OR
"I'll have chicken with green beans on the _____"
Change one letter.

rid

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r-Controlled Vowels (air, are, ear) Word Ladder

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

A shape that has four sides
Change one letter and add one letter.

To look at something for a long time
Change one letter.

An animal like a rabbit
Take away two letters and add "e" to the end.

What grows on the top of your head; you comb it
Change one letter.

What you breathe
Take away one letter.

To frighten someone by saying "boo!"
Change one letter.

To let someone play with the same toy you are playing with
Add one letter.

What you sit in
Add one letter.

Two of the something, like socks
Add one letter.

fair

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r-Controlled Vowels (ar) Word Ladder

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

An ocean animal with large, sharp teeth
Change two letters.

Another word for “begin”
Add one letter.

The opposite of close or near
Take away one letter.

The long part of your body above the hand
Take away one letter and change one letter.

The sound a dog makes
Change one letter.

What you are if you know a lot
Change one letter.

Something shiny in the night sky
Change one letter and add one letter.

Where a farmer lives, often has a barn and tractor
Add one letter.

The building where a horse or cow lives
Change one letter.

dark

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r-Controlled Vowels (ear, eer, ere) Word Ladder

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

Not cloudy; something you can see through is this
Change one letter and change one vowel.

To yell at a game to help the team win
Change two letters.

What you do when you drive a car to move it in one direction or another
Change one letter and add one letter.

An animal with horns (a fawn, doe, buck)
Change one vowel.

The first word in a letter to a friend; someone you like a lot
Change one letter.

What you have if you are afraid of something
Change one letter.

A period of time lasting 12 months
Change one letter.

Opposite of far
Change one letter.

What you do with your ears
Take away the “e” at the end and add one vowel.

here

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r-Controlled Vowels (oar, or, ore) Word Ladder

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

The sharp part of a rose stem
Add one letter.

Something you eat, it is yellow and on a cob
Change two letters.

To put things that have something in common into groups, such as all red blocks in one pile
Take away one letter.

The land along the edge of a lake or ocean
Change one letter.

What you do when you kick the soccer ball into the net and get a point
Add one letter.

Something you honk on a car to make noise
Change one letter.

What you eat with, like a spoon but with 3 or 4 sharp points
Change two letters.

Not tall
Change one letter.

Where you buy things
Change one letter.

sore

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s-Blends Word Ladder

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

Unable to move, like a car's wheel in mud
Change one letter.

A small piece of wood, like a part of a tree branch
Add one letter.

Not feeling well; ill
Change one letter and add one letter.

To take a small drink of water from a cup
Change one letter.

A big boat
Change one letter.

To fall on ice
Change one letter.

To move forward by hopping one foot at a time
Change one letter.

What covers your body; it can have freckles and hair on it
Change one letter.

To turn around quickly, like a top or a wheel
Add one letter.

pin

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Short-o Word Ladder

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

An animal that hops and says "ribbit"
Change two letters.

An animal that barks
Change one letter.

Not a little, but a _____
Change one letter.

To jump up and down like a rabbit
Change one letter.

The opposite of bottom
Take away one letter.

To run slowly
Change one letter.

A part of a dead tree, which a frog sits on
Change one letter.

The opposite of cold
Change one letter.

Used to clean a wet floor
Change one letter.

stop

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