

Word Ladders



CHANGE ONE LETTER



35 pages • 9 page types • 31 ladders



THREE STEPS

1 Climb one together

Page 6 is the one student page with the rule on it: each step up the ladder changes one letter, or adds or takes off the magic e. Read the two ladders aloud with the child, then start with Read the Ladder.

2 Pick a page type

Nine page types, easiest to hardest; the chart says which page for which child. Every ladder on every student page is different: no practice ladder repeats across the student pages.

3 Check it, record it, send it home

The answer keys are pages 24, 25 and 26. Date each page on the tracker (page 27), roll the group up on page 28, and send the home page (30). A filled example is on page 31.

WHICH PAGE, WHEN

WHEN...	USE...
Meeting word ladders	Helper, page 6 · Read the Ladder, pages 7, 8
Ready to write one letter	Climb with a Clue, pages 9, 10
Ready to build a ladder (cutting)	Build the Ladder, pages 11, 12, 13
Ready to write whole words	Write the Rungs, pages 14, 15
Ready for the magic e	Magic E Ladders, pages 16, 17
Ready to climb without circles	Climb to the Top, pages 18, 19 · Fix the Ladder, pages 20, 21
Ready to make a ladder	My Own Ladder, pages 22, 23
Writing a progress note or a note home	Team note, page 29 · phrase bank, page 32

Everything inside (35 pages)

- **18 student pages** in 9 page types: Ladder Helper, Read the Ladder, Climb with a Clue, Build the Ladder, Write the Rungs, Magic E Ladders, Climb to the Top, Fix the Ladder and My Own Ladder
- **31 different ladders** printed on the student pages, searched in code from a 185-word bank (131 CVC words, 54 silent-e words)
- **15 cut-and-glue pieces:** five a page on three pages, edge to edge in a 2 by 3 block
- **1 rules page, 3 answer keys, 1 tracker, 1 class grid**
- **1 team note, 1 home page, 1 filled example, 1 phrase bank**
- **1 binder cover, 6 divider tabs** and a spine label

What makes it different

Every page is a ladder: each rung is a real word and each step changes one letter, so a child reads and writes many words that are alike and not the same. No page needs a picture to be named. Page 5 says what is in the word bank and what is left out, and leaves a line for your program's own wording.



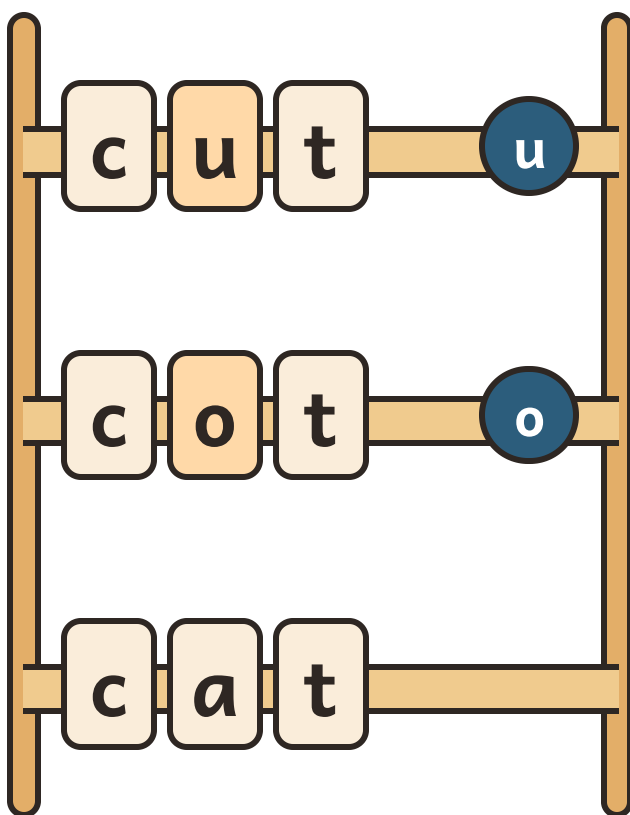
My name: _____

Date _____



Change one letter. Make a new word.

Change one letter

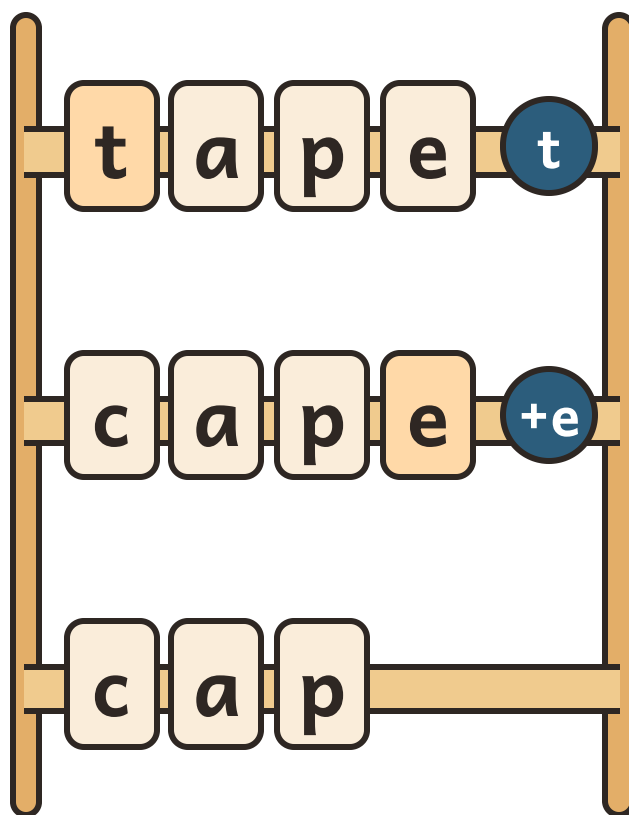


start here

cat, cot, cut

The circle shows the new letter.

Add the magic e



start here

cap, cape, tape

+e adds the magic e. -e takes it off.



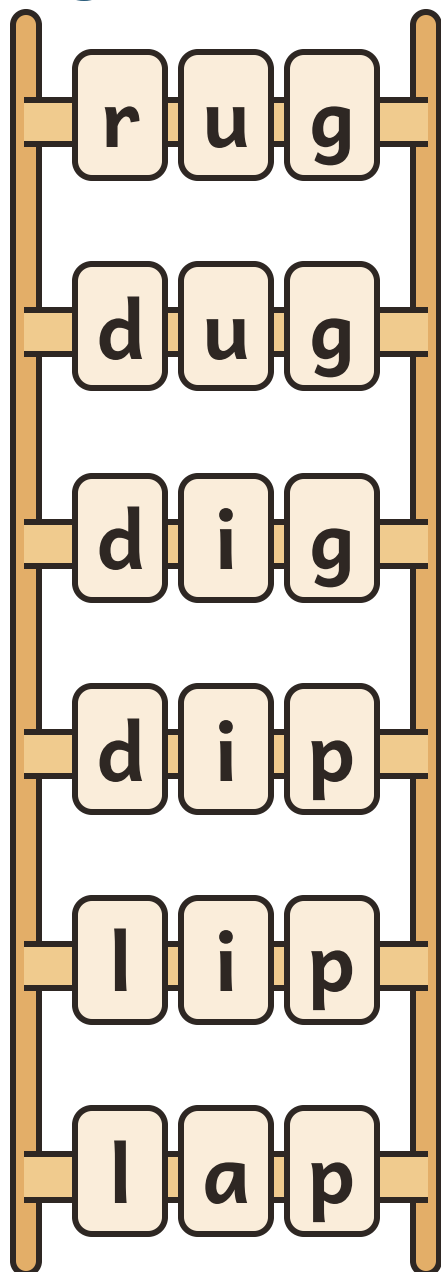
My name: _____

Date _____



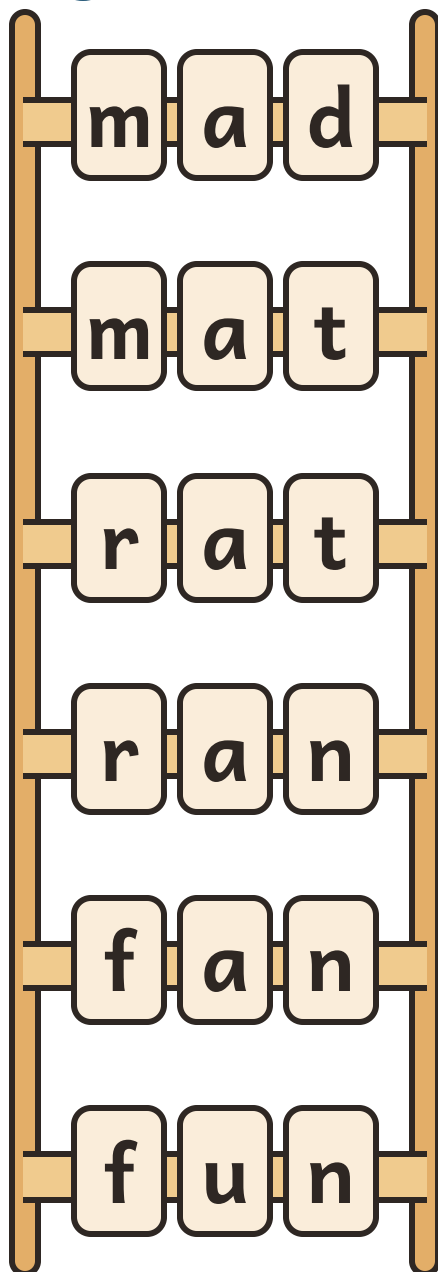
Read up the ladder. Circle the new letter.

1



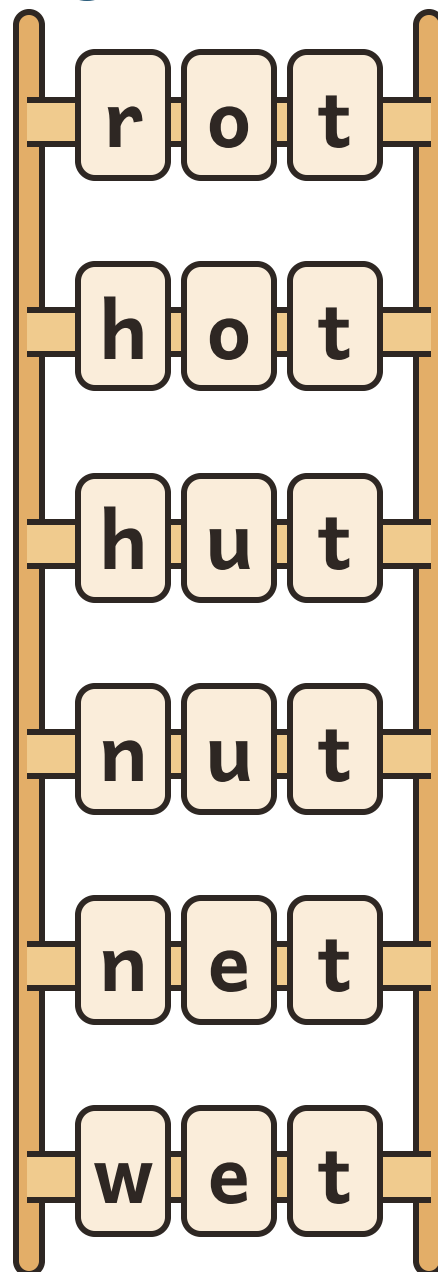
start here

2



start here

3



start here



My name: _____

Date _____



Write the circle letter in the empty box.

1 ★

b		t	a
	i	t	b
f	i		t
f		x	i
	o	x	f
b	o	x	

start here

2 ★

j		g	o
	u	g	j
t	u		g
	u	b	t
r	u		b
r	u	n	

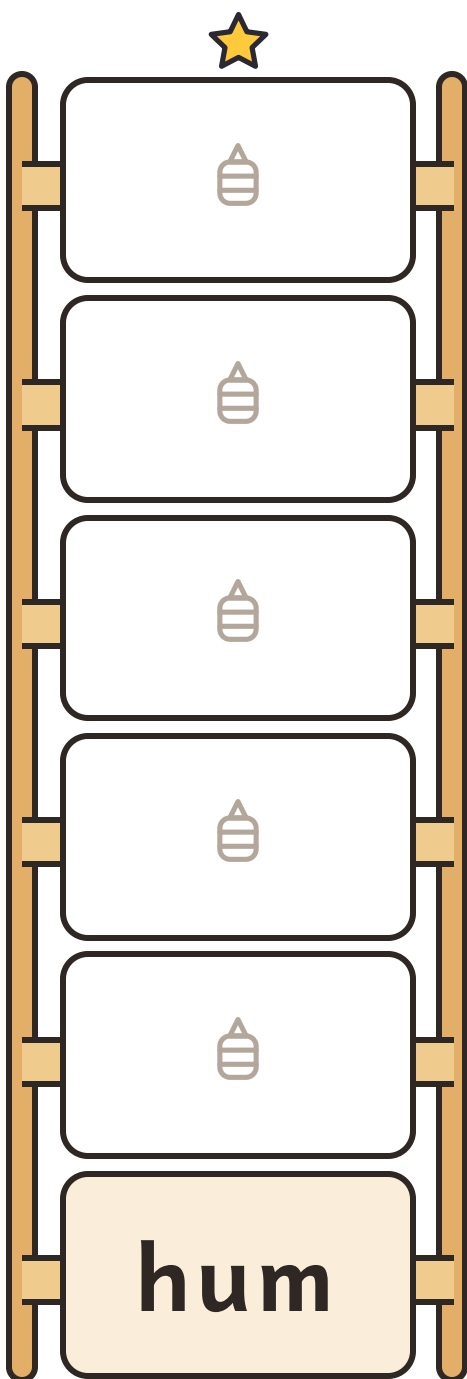
start here



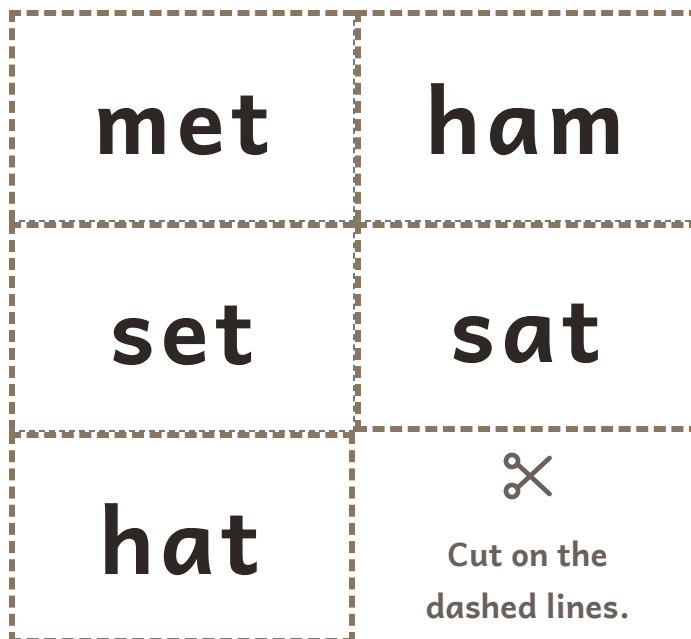
My name: _____ Date _____



Cut out the words. Glue them up the ladder.



start here



Look

c a t → c o t
c o t → c u t

One new letter each time.



Read your ladder up. Every word is a new word.



My name: _____

Date _____



Follow each circle. Write the new word.

1



				p
				r
				s
				+e
				t
n	o	d		

start here

2



				x
				s
				i
				-e
				p
h	o	m	e	

start here



My name: _____

Date _____



Write words to climb to the top. Change one letter each time.

1



h	i	d
p	e	t

start here

2



h	u	g
n	a	p

start here

3



h	e	n
c	a	p

start here

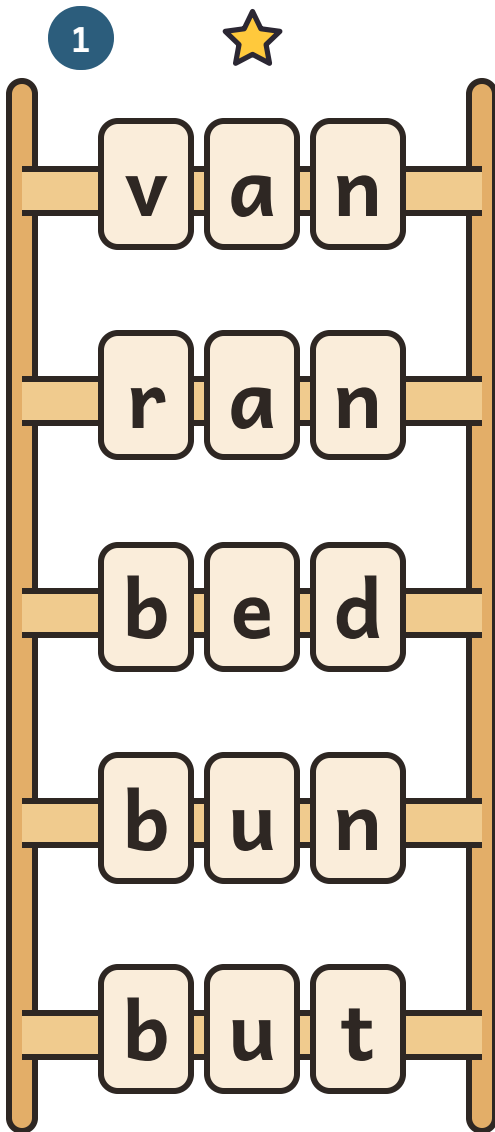


My name: _____

Date _____

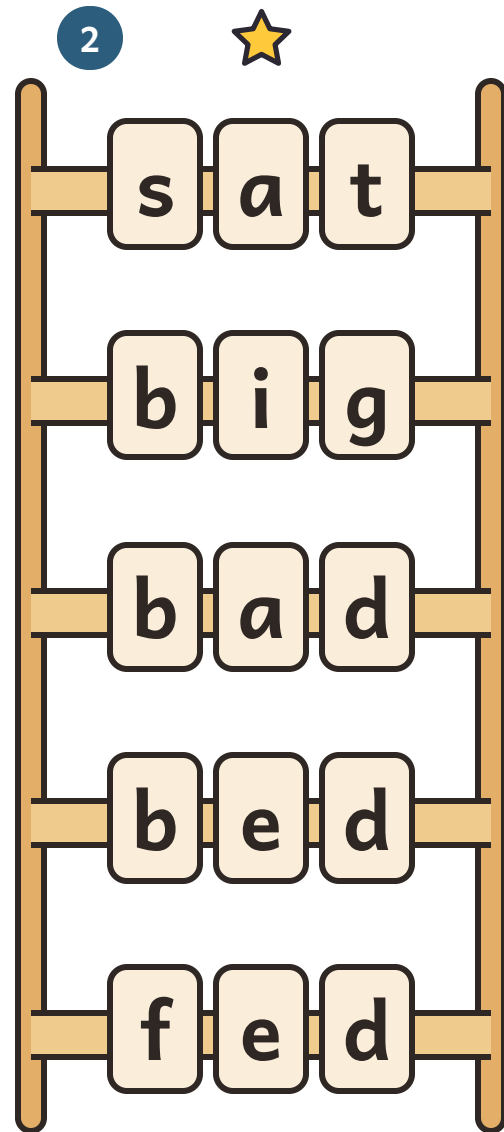


One rung is wrong. Circle it. Write a word that fits.



start here

Write the right word:



start here

Write the right word:



STUDENT

TEACHER

MONTH

PAGE TYPE AND SET	PG	DATE	RIGHT	NOTES
Read the Ladder · Set A (of 15)	7			
Read the Ladder · Set B (of 15)	8			
Climb with a Clue · Set A (of 10)	9			
Climb with a Clue · Set B (of 10)	10			
Build the Ladder · Set A (of 5)	11			
Build the Ladder · Set B (of 5)	12			
Build the Ladder · Set C (of 5)	13			
Write the Rungs · Set A (of 10)	14			
Write the Rungs · Set B (of 10)	15			
Magic E Ladders · Set A (of 10)	16			
Magic E Ladders · Set B (of 10)	17			
Climb to the Top · Set A (of 9)	18			
Climb to the Top · Set B (of 9)	19			
Fix the Ladder · Set A (of 2)	20			
Fix the Ladder · Set B (of 2)	21			
My Own Ladder · Set A (of 10)	22			
My Own Ladder · Set B (of 10)	23			

How to fill this in

Date each page the day it is finished, and write how many of its items the child got right with no prompt; the number after “of” is what the page holds. A blank means not tried yet, never wrong. Answer keys: pages 24, 25 and 26. Filled example: page 31.

THIS MONTH WE ARE WORKING ON





Priya S. is invented; nothing on this page describes a real student. The blank tracker is on page 27.

STUDENT

TEACHER

MONTH

Priya S. (an invented student)

Mr. Okafor (invented)

November

PAGE TYPE AND SET	PG	DATE	RIGHT	NOTES
Read the Ladder · Set A (of 15)	7	11/3	15 of 15	–
Read the Ladder · Set B (of 15)	8	11/5	14 of 15	Circled the wrong letter once
Climb with a Clue · Set A (of 10)	9	11/10	10 of 10	–
Climb with a Clue · Set B (of 10)	10	11/12	9 of 10	One letter in the wrong box
Build the Ladder · Set A (of 5)	11	11/17	3 of 5	Two cards swapped
Build the Ladder · Set B (of 5)	12	–	–	–
Build the Ladder · Set C (of 5)	13	–	–	–
Write the Rungs · Set A (of 10)	14	11/19	8 of 10	Two rungs left blank
Write the Rungs · Set B (of 10)	15	–	–	–
Magic E Ladders · Set A (of 10)	16	–	–	–
Magic E Ladders · Set B (of 10)	17	–	–	–
Climb to the Top · Set A (of 9)	18	–	–	–
Climb to the Top · Set B (of 9)	19	–	–	–
Fix the Ladder · Set A (of 2)	20	–	–	–
Fix the Ladder · Set B (of 2)	21	–	–	–
My Own Ladder · Set A (of 10)	22	–	–	–
My Own Ladder · Set B (of 10)	23	–	–	–

How to read it

Priya S. has finished **2 of 2** Read the Ladder pages (**29 of 30** items right), **2 of 2** Climb with a Clue pages (**19 of 20**), **1 of 3** Build the Ladder pages (**3 of 5**) and **1 of 2** Write the Rungs pages (**8 of 10**). The other page types are not started. Every number is read off the table above.

The family note this tracker would produce

“This month Priya S. circled the new letter on 29 of 30 rungs and wrote the new letter on 19 of 20. On her first Build the Ladder page she glued 3 of 5 cards in the right place; two were swapped. She is now writing whole words: 8 of 10 on Write the Rungs, Set A.” — every fact in it is a row of the table above.





THANK YOU FOR USING THIS RESOURCE

Everything here was built for the teacher who has a table of children who each need a different amount of support with reading and spelling short words. If this helped, leaving feedback on TPT helps other teachers find it.

Something missing or wrong?

Please use the **Ask a Question** tab on the product page first — every question is read, and a fix to the file is a free update you re-download from **My Purchases**.

WHAT'S NEXT FROM THIS STORE

The magic e as a sort, short-vowel words at three levels, word families, and the fill-in-the-letter step that comes before a ladder.

SILENT E
Cut and Paste, 3 Levels

41 PAGES

Silent E Cut and Paste, 3 Levels

The magic e as a sort: cut a piece, glue it in, at three levels.

CVC WORDS
Cut and Paste, 3 Levels

41 PAGES

CVC Words Cut and Paste, 3 Levels

Short-vowel words at three levels, the step before a ladder.

WORD FAMILIES
Cut and Paste, 3 Levels

26 PAGES

Word Families Cut and Paste, 3 Levels

One ending, a new first letter each time.

**MISSING LETTER SOUND
FILL-IN-THE-BLANK CVC**

4 FORMATS

23 Pages 32 CVC Words 4 Formats Answer Key

Missing Letter Sound Fill-in-the-Blank CVC Worksheets

Fill in the missing letter in a short word.

Part of the K-2 Phonics and Word Study collection — new products in this collection are added regularly. Click **Follow** on the store page and TPT will email you when they go up.

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