Word Ladders Explorer

Word Labyrinth

Name: _____ Date: _____

How to play: get from the top word to the bottom word by changing **one letter** at a time. Every rung has to be a real word, and the letters stay in the same order. Example: TOP → TIP → LIP. Four-letter words, 3 to 6 steps. For confident readers from about age 9.

1. RIDE to BIKE
3 steps

R	I	D	E
B	I	K	E

2. FARM to BARN
3 steps

F	A	R	M
B	A	R	N

3. MILK to CAKE
4 steps

M	I	L	K
C	A	K	E

4. HOME to WORK
4 steps

H	O	M	E
W	O	R	K

5. MICE to CATS
5 steps

M	I	C	E
C	A	T	S

6. HARD to EASY
5 steps

H	A	R	D
E	A	S	Y

7. NOSE to FACE
5 steps

N	O	S	E
F	A	C	E

8. DUCK to POND
6 steps

D	U	C	K
P	O	N	D

Answer key Explorer

One solution for each ladder

1. RIDE → HIDE → HIKE → BIKE
2. FARM → FARE → BARE → BARN
3. MILK → MILE → MALE → MAKE → CAKE
4. HOME → COME → CORE → CORK → WORK
5. MICE → RICE → RACE → RATE → RATS → CATS
6. HARD → CARD → CARE → CASE → EASE → EASY
7. NOSE → POSE → POLE → PALE → PACE → FACE
8. DUCK → BUCK → BACK → BANK → BAND → BOND → POND

Each ladder above is as short as it gets with everyday words. Other answers can be right too: if every rung is a real word and only one letter changes each time, count it.

Make your own ladder. Pick two words with the same number of letters and build the ladder between them. Swap with a partner and solve each other's.