**Word Ladder**

**Phonics Activity Center Guide**

Word Ladder is a hands-on, step-by-step, word-making activity perfect for use at school or at home! Kids “climb” the ladder one word at a time by saying, spelling, and writing words. As they climb, they are developing letter-sound recognition and word-building skills including: identifying beginning, middle, and ending sounds and adding, deleting, and substituting phonemes to create new words.

**Includes:**
- Printable Word Ladder
- 40 Cut-out lesson cards
- Cutout write-on cards
- 58 cut-out letter tiles
- This activity guide

**Letter Tiles**
Word Ladder comes with 58 letter tiles. They include single letters, vowel pairs, blends, and digraphs.

**Write-on Cards**
The lined write-on card lets you, or your students, write the words that match the pictures. Simply place the card on the right-hand side of the Ladder.

**Using Word Ladder**

1. Place the Word Ladder on the floor or on a large table, ensuring there is enough room to easily move the letter cards and write on the chart. Be sure the Activity Center is resting on a hard, flat surface so that you can easily write on the lined writing card pocket.

2. Place a lesson card on the left side of the ladder and the writing card on the right. Place the letter tiles needed to spell the word for the pictures shown, at the bottom of the page for the child to use. The letters needed are shown at the bottom of the lesson card.

3. Ask your child to name the picture at the bottom of the card. (They may use the letter tiles for clues if needed.) Then, have them choose and place the letter tiles to form the word on the line on the ladder's bottom rung. Write the matching word on the bottom line of the writing card, or have your child write it.

4. Ask your child to name the second picture from the bottom. Have them decide what letter (or letter combination, such as a blend, vowel pair, or digraph) needs to be replaced in the first word to make the second word. Then have them make the new word by moving the appropriate letter tiles from the first word to the second rung. Have the child place a new letter card for the one being replaced. (Example: If the first word is cup and the second word, the c and p are moved up and the u is left behind. Then a is taken from the letters below the page, and placed between c and p to complete cap.) The second word is then written above the first on the lined writing card.

5. Repeat the procedure, making a new word on each rung by moving the appropriate letter tiles up the ladder and writing the word on the corresponding line. Continue until all the words have been formed. Finally, read all the written words aloud together.
Word Ladder reinforces the following letter-sound relationships:

Card 1 – Short a
Card 2 – Short e
Card 3 – Short i
Card 4 – Short o
Card 5 – Short u
Card 6 – Short a, u
Card 7 – Short i, o
Card 8 – Short e, u
Card 9 – Short a, i, o
Card 10 – Short a, e, u
Card 11 – Short i, o
  Blends bl, cl, br, st; Digraph ck
Card 12 – Short a, u
  Blends dr, fl, pl, sl
Card 13 – Short i
  Blends dr, sw, ng, nk
Card 14 – Short a, u
  Blends cl, sk, tr, nk; Digraph ck
Card 15 – Short a, u
  Blends bl, cr, st, mp; Digraph ck
Card 16 – Short e, i, o
  Blends dr, st, nk
Card 17 – Short a, i, o
  Blends bl, fr, tr; Digraph ck
Card 18 – Short a
  Blends st, tr, mp, nd; Digraph sh
Card 19 – Short i, o
  Digraphs ch, sh
Card 20 – Short e, i
  Blends bl, mp, st; Digraphs ch, ck
Card 21 – Long a/silent e
Card 22 – Long i/silent e
Card 23 – Long o/silent e
Card 24 – Long a, o/silent e
Card 25 – Long a, i/silent e
Card 26 – Long i, o, u/silent e
Card 27 – Long a/silent e
  Blends pl, sk, sn
Card 28 – Long a, i/silent e
  Blends fl, fr
Card 29 – Long a, o/silent e
  Blends gr, st
Card 30 – Long a, i, o/silent e
  Blends pl, sm, sp
Card 31 – ar; Blend sm
  Digraphs ch, sh
Card 32 – or; Blend sp
  Digraph sh
Card 33 – ar, or; Blend st
  Digraph sh
Card 34 – ar, or, ur
  Digraph ch
Card 35 – ar, ir, or
  Blend sk
  Digraph sh
Card 36 – ai, oo (pool)
  Blends sn, st
Card 37 – ai, ee
  Digraph sh
Card 38 – ea (beat), oa
  Digraph ch
Card 39 – ee, oa, oo (boot)
  Blend br
Card 40 – ea, oa, oo (book)

1 – fan, can, cat, rat, hat, ham, ram
2 – hen, men, ten, pen, pet, wet, web
3 – six, sit, pit, hit, hip, lip, lid
4 – log, dog, dot, cot, pot, pod, rod
5 – mug, bug, bus, bun, run, sun, sub
6 – cup, cap, cat, bat, bag, bug, rug
7 – pot, dot, dog, dig, pig, pin, fin
8 – web, wet, jet, net, nut, cut, cub
9 – top, mop, map, mat, hat, hit, sit
10 – ten, men, man, can, cab, cub, tub
11 – clock, block, lock, lick, sick, stick, brick
12 – drum, plum, plug, slug, bug, bag, flag
13 – king, wing, swing, sing, sink, pink, drink
14 – skunk, trunk, truck, track, trap, clap, clam
15 – dump, stump, stamp, stack, black, crack, crab
16 – wink, drink, drip, drop, stop, step, stem
17 – frog, log, lock, block, black, track, trick
18 – stamp, lamp, land, hand, sand, sash, trash
19 – dish, fish, fin, chin, chip, chop, shop
20 – chest, nest, neck, check, chick, chimp, blimp
21 – vase, vane, mane, pane, lane, lake, rake
22 – line, pine, pile, file, five, dive, hive
23 – robe, rope, rose, hose, hole, pole, mole
24 – rake, cake, cage, cape, cane, cone, bone
25 – maze, mane, pane, pine, line, lime, time
26 – mule, mole, hole, home, dome, dime, time
27 – gate, skate, plate, plane, cane, cake, snake
28 – kite, bite, bike, bake, flake, flame, frame
29 – grape, tape, cape, cane, cone, stone, stove
30 – smoke, spoke, spike, spine, vine, vane, plane
31 – harp, sharp, shark, dark, dart, smart, chart
32 – horn, corn, cork, fork, fort, sport, short
33 – barn, bark, shark, park, pork, stork, storm
34 – yarn, barn, burn, turn, torn, torch, porch
35 – skirt, shirt, dirt, cart, card, cord
36 – sail, snail, tail, mail, pail, pool, stool
37 – nail, pail, peel, feel, feet, sheet, sheep
38 – peach, beach, bean, beat, boat, coat, coach
39 – goat, boat, beet, boot, root, room, broom
40 – hook, book, beak, bead, read, road, toad