Word Ladders: Change One Letter

Answers, explanations and adult support.

First ladder

CAT > COT > DOT > DOG. The changed positions are 2, then 1, then 3. Both bank words are used once.

Second ladder

COLD > CORD > WORD > WORM > WARM. The changed positions are 3, then 1, then 4, then 2. All three bank words are used once.

What the rule means

At each step, compare letters in the same positions. Exactly one position changes. No letter may be inserted, deleted or moved. The printed bank is part of the puzzle: other real words are outside this task. Read each completed word aloud with adult support.

Help the learner choose a next step

From CAT, only COT in the first bank changes exactly one letter. From COLD, only CORD in the second bank does so. Keep checking the unused bank words against the current word, then check the final step too. These are word puzzles, not a phonics sequence; a letter change may change more than one sound.