During the past two years, Word Ways has presented several of my articles on directed word chains. These are chains of overlapping words, directed in that they are read in one direction only. I have studied two types of directed chains: (1) ana-gram-mar chains in which every letter of every word is used in one other word, and (2) those with a greater degree of overlap in which one or two letters of each word are used in more than one other word. The August 1992 Kickshaws presented examples of a third type, in which some letters are used less than twice. The November 1992 Colloquy presented a "wild" type, with long overlaps of irregular length. I have not studied either of the latter.

This article describes chaining 8-, 9-, and 10-letter words together. Every word overlaps the previous by 5 letters. 10-letter words were not allowed to join each other so there are no ana­gram-mar links. My database consists of 36,000 8-letter words, 29,000 9-letter words, and 20,000 10-letter words, all lower case.

The high ratio of 8-letter to 10-letter words reflects initial use of the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary. About 2,500 of these 85,000 words can be joined together by 5-letter directed links. The following table contains ones which are fairly well connected to each other, or to at least one other word not in the table. Capitalized words form the core.

| adaptable | colonising | KINGSIDES | roomstead | SIDESTEPS | standpipes |
| adaptable | crossings | LANDSIDES | ROOTSTOCK | singsongs | standstill |
| aniseeds | crossword | landslips | saucemen | slapsauce | starstone |
| anticlines | DIESTOCK | landstorm | screwballs | slapstick | statehouse |
| backshift | DOWNSHIFT | letterings | screwheads | slapsticks | staterooms |
| backslaps | dressings | linesides | screwstock | slavelands | steadiest |
| backspace | grassings | locksteps | screwworms | slaveowner | STEPSTONE |
| backsewer | HEADSHIPS | logicising | semantic | slipslaps | stickballs |
| backstall | headspace | mateships | RINGERS | soapstone | stilette |
| ballstock | HEADSTALL | otherwhere | shellbacks | sondelis | stonebirds |
| birdsseeds | headstamp | pipestone | shelducks | songstress | STONEBROOD |
| bookstall | headstand | plankings | SHIFTABLE | spacemen | stonecress |
| bookstove | headstick | polestars | SHIPSIDES | spaceships | stonehands |
| BROADIEST | HEADSTOCK | preadapt | shootable | spacewoman | STONEHEADS |
| cheroots | herdswoman | preadopt | shooter | speerings | STONEROOTS |
| chinoroots | hornstone | ranchero | shotshell | stackyards | stonesails |
| chinowan | houseman | ranchwoman | SIDESHARK | STALLIONS | stonesmith |
| cockshoot | KINGSHIPS | ringsides | sideslips | stampedes | storehouse |
Here are some chains. Short fragments show how beginner or ender words join the central body. Long chains show typical use of the highly connected words. As before, the table was generated by computer, and chains were developed by hand.

**Conjuga**

- heathendom
- anoestri
- executer
- gallycrows
- endomorph
- estridge
- cuterebra
- crowsteps
- morphemic
- ridgepoles
- rebranch
- stepstone
- hemicentra
- polestar
- ranchwoman
- handshake
- downswing
- shakedowns
- swingbacks
- birdseeds
- aniseeds
- downstate
- backword
- seedstalk
- statehouse
- swordtails
- stalkiest
- hereunder
- houseman
- tailstock
- kiesters
- undercooks
- semantic
- stockyards
- cookstove
- anticlines
- yardstick
- stovepipes
- linesides
- stickwater
- downshift
- pipestone
- sidesteps
- waterings
- shiftable
- stonebirds
- stepstone
- ringsides
- tablelands
- birdstone
- stonewoods
- landscape
- stonegalls
- woodsmoke
- hatchcheck
- scapegoats
- gallstone
- smokejacks
- checkrooms
- goatstone
- stoneheads
- jackscrew
- roomstead
- stonebrood
- headstock
- screwworms
- steadiest
- broodiest
- stockings
- wormseeds
- overcloud
- diestrus
- diestock
- kingships
- cloudburst
- trousers
- stockturns
- burstone
- turnscREW
- stonecress
- screwballs
- cressaunt
- standpipes
- ballstock
- sauntering
- pipestems
- eringoes
- stemsons

**ANAGR**

O. V. MICH
Whiting, New

Writers and their names are TAIRE, Writers (.
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1 and J were
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of DECANUS

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arranged the
REDBARN WA
Geographic gram of A.
MORRISON
MR. MOJO R