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) anagrammar 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 anagrammar 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>adaptable</th>
<th>colonising</th>
<th>KINGSIDES</th>
<th>roomstead</th>
<th>SIDESTEPS</th>
<th>standpipes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>adoptable</td>
<td>crossings</td>
<td>LANDSIDES</td>
<td>ROOTSTOCK</td>
<td>singsongs</td>
<td>standstill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aniseeds</td>
<td>crossword</td>
<td>landslips</td>
<td>saucemen</td>
<td>slapsauce</td>
<td>starstone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anticlines</td>
<td>DIERSTOCK</td>
<td>landstorm</td>
<td>screwballs</td>
<td>slapstick</td>
<td>statehouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>backshift</td>
<td>DOWNSHIFT</td>
<td>letterings</td>
<td>screwheads</td>
<td>slapsticks</td>
<td>staterooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>backslaps</td>
<td>dressings</td>
<td>linesides</td>
<td>screwstock</td>
<td>slavelands</td>
<td>steadiest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>backspace</td>
<td>grassings</td>
<td>LIONSHIPS</td>
<td>screwworms</td>
<td>slaveowner</td>
<td>STEPSTONE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>backspier</td>
<td>HEADSHIPS</td>
<td>logicising</td>
<td>semantic</td>
<td>slipslops</td>
<td>stickballs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>backstall</td>
<td>headspace</td>
<td>mateships</td>
<td>SHAKEONWS</td>
<td>soapstone</td>
<td>stilette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ballstock</td>
<td>HEADSTALL</td>
<td>otherwhere</td>
<td>shellbacks</td>
<td>sendelsis</td>
<td>stonebirds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>birdsseeds</td>
<td>headstamp</td>
<td>pipestone</td>
<td>shellducks</td>
<td>songstress</td>
<td>STONEBROOD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bookstall</td>
<td>headstand</td>
<td>plankings</td>
<td>SHIFTABLE</td>
<td>spacemen</td>
<td>stonecress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bookstore</td>
<td>headstick</td>
<td>polestars</td>
<td>SHIPSIDES</td>
<td>spaceships</td>
<td>stonehands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BROADIEST</td>
<td>HEADSTOCK</td>
<td>preadapt</td>
<td>shootable</td>
<td>spacewoman</td>
<td>STONEHEADS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cheroote</td>
<td>herdswoman</td>
<td>preadopt</td>
<td>shooter</td>
<td>speerings</td>
<td>STONEROOTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chinawoman</td>
<td>houseman</td>
<td>ranchwoman</td>
<td>SIDESHAKE</td>
<td>STALLIONS</td>
<td>stonemith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cockshoot</td>
<td>KINGSHIPS</td>
<td>ringsides</td>
<td>sideslips</td>
<td>stampedes</td>
<td>storehouse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

conjugally heathened geom anoes tri executer
gallycrows endomorphic estridge cuterebra
crowsteps morphemic ridgepoles rebranch
stepstone hemicentra polestar ranchwoman
handshake downswing shakedowns swingbacks birdseeds aniseeds
downstate backword seedstalk
statehouse swordtails stankiest
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 stonestones woodsmoke
hatcheck scapegoats gallstone smokejacks
checkrooms goatstone stoneheads jack screw
roomstead stonebrood headstock screws worms
steadiest broadest stockings wormseeds
overcloud diestrous diestock kingships
cloudburst diestrous diestock stockturns
burststone trouser stockturn
stonecress screwballs
cressaunt standpipes ballstock
sauntering pipetemstemsons
eregoes stemsons

O. V. MICH

Writers and their anagrams: TAIRE, whi
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I and J were
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GRUBEDOL. LUDIE (SIMI
a Spanish

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