

SUPER-IDEAL SEVEN-LETTER WORD LADDERS

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In the case of 7-letter words, almost one-third are heterograms, the fraction of isolanos decreases to about a quarter, and for the first time we have some onalosis (words in which each letter can be changed independently to make another word). Moreover, we only have to find eight related words for each ladder. These facts mean that the number of ladders starting and ending with heterograms, with every letter differing between the two words, increase over a thousandfold to nearly 100,000, and more common words appear. For the first time we see ideal ladders where the letters are replaced in order (there are several hundred of these). This implies that every corresponding letter differs between the two words. Even more impressively, there are about 20 ladders in which the terminal words are also heterograms. There are even ladders containing germane words, e.g. CLINGER-STICKER-STUCK ON. No ladders were found in which the terminal words used permutations of the same letters while conforming to the other criteria, so there is no technical variety of Connoisseur's Ladder; and in the few cases where the basic technical criteria are satisfied, there are no terminal words bearing an apt relationship to one another, so there is no semantic variety of Connoisseur's Ladder. We are, however, getting very close in both cases.

There have been 20 previously published 7-letter ideal ladders, but none have sequential letter replacement. Just three are between heterograms, and they had to compete with nearly 100,000 others for inclusion in the first list below. They are CHANTRY-SWITHER, SUTLER-PANTIES, and POSTMEN-BANKERS (see "Snakes and Ladders" in the May 1998 Word Ways, where they were first published). In the first list below (ideal ladders between heterograms), there are straightforward associations such as halting denials, bawdier lungers, bungled parleys, Marcuse ponders, pardons mistake, carmine humpers (scarlet women!), and voltage cabling; there are contradictions such as fasting bingers and lingers hastily; and there are new ideas such as stick-on whanger, custard baileys, mustard limpets (a genetic modification), and rustled bangers. Thus we would have found the semantic type of Connoisseur's Ladder if only there were sequential replacement of letters. Clearly, with almost 100,000 ladders to choose from, no attempt has been made to list alternative routes between two terminal words, nor to do other than indicate a few companion terminal words. The selection has been made mainly on a semantic basis.

Ideal ladders with sequential change (but not between heterograms) appear in the second list below. Since each ladder is listed under the first of its terminal words to appear in a dictionary, it is necessary to list cases where the sequential change proceeds backwards as well as forwards. Some terminal words are apposite to a degree, e.g. SPARROW-BLINKED, or better BOPPERS-DISCOED. There is also the Sikh factory (TURBANS-CANNERY), the well-hung meat to come

(CARCASE PENDING), the art student (PALETTE SCHOLAR), CAREERS-OUTLINE, DISCOER-RAPPERS, PRINT ON GLASSES, or just the pleasure of old words (see, for example, the ladder beginning FLOTTEN). The SCHOLAR, appropriately, has many variant forms. Some of these are very close to being a Connoisseur's Ladder, lacking only heterograms as terminal words.

The ideal ladders between heterograms with sequential replacement (the third list) contain a few examples of note, in that all the words are OED variant forms. In contrast, a few ladders have few or no variant forms, and a few have mainly place names (not all words, because no terminal place names were chosen).

Words in the following lists appear in at least two of the OED, Pulliam, Stedman, Web 2, OSPD unless marked otherwise. The first word in the ladder is earlier in the alphabet than the last. Bl = Bloomsbury Thesaurus, Ch = Chambers (source of many derivations), Tert F = Tertiary Faunas, vf = OED variant form.

Ideal Ladders between heterograms (selection of about 0.06% of those found)

- BACK-END(OED)—BACKENS(vf)—BACKERS—BUCKERS—BULKERS(OED)—BULGERS—BULGARS—VULGARS
also to—VENDORS
- BACKERS—BUCKERS—BULKERS—BULGERS—BULGARS—VULGARS—VULGARE—VULGATE
- BAILEYS—BAILERS—BAITERS—BASTERS—BASTERD(vf)—BASTARD—MASTARD(OED)—MUSTARD
also—BUSTARD—CUSTARD
- BALDING—BALLING—MALLING—MILLING—MISLING(OED)—MISLINE(OED)—MISLIVE—MISLOVE(OED)
also BALMING—, BARFING—, BALKING—, BARKING—, BURYING—, CAUSING—, CURSING—, FARTING—,
FUCKING—, HARMING—, HURTING—, PAUSING—, SOLVING—, SULKING—, PULSING—, ROUSING—, PARTING—etc
- BANGERS—BANTERS—BUNTERS—BUSTERS—BUSTEES(OED)—BUSTLES—RUSTLES—RUSTLED(stolen sausages)
- BANGLED—BUNGLED—BUNGLES—BUNGEES(OED)—BURGEES—BURGEYS(OED)—BURLEYS—HURLEYS(Liz
Hurley, English model/actress famous for the way she dresses)
- BANKERS—BUNKERS—BUSKERS—BUSTERS—BUSTEES—BUSTLES—BUSTLER—HUSTLER
- BANKERS—BANDERS—LANDERS—LENDERS—LEADERS—LEADENS(OED)—LEAD-INS—LEADING
- BANKERS—WANKERS—WINKERS—WINDERS—WILDERS—WILDERN—WILDEAN(OED)—WILD MAN(OED)
also DANCERS—, JAILERS—, LUNGERS—, LANCERS—, PANZERS— and many others
- BANTERS—CANTERS—CANNERS—CONNERS—CORNERS—CORNELS—CORNELY(OED)—CORNILY(OSPD)
- BARLEYS—BURLEYS—BULLEYS(OED)—BULLEES(vf)—BULLIES—BULLIER(OSPD)—BULKIER—HULKIER
- BASTING—BATTING—LATTING(vf)—LATTINS—LATTENS—LATTERS—LATHERS—LUTHER'S
- BATHERS—BATTERS—BATTENS—LATTENS—LATTINS—LATTING(vf)—LASTING—LUSTING
- BATHERS—BASHERS—BUSHERS—BUSTERS—BUSTEES—BUSTLES—HUSTLES—HUSTLED
also BANKERS—, BACKERS—, BILKERS—etc
- BAWDIER—BANDIER—BANDIES—BUNDIES—BUNGIES—BUNGEES—LUNGEES—LUNGERS
- BAWLERS—BALLERS—BULLERS—BULLEES(vf)—BULLIES—BULLIER—BULKIER—SULKIER
- BAWLING—BALLING—BULLING—MULLING—MULLINS(vf)—MULLENS—MULLERS—MULDERS(vf or X-files hero)
- BEADING—BENDING—PENDING—PENDINE(in Dyfed)—PENDISE(OED)—PENDASE(OED)—PEN-CASE(OED)—PINCASE
- BEAMING—BEADING—LEADING—LEAD-INS—LEADENS(OED)—LEADERS—LENDERS—LANDERS(Star Trek transporter)
- BE ANGRY(BI)—BEANERY—BEAVERY—BRAVERY—BRAVELY—GRAVELY—GRAVELS—GROVELS
- BED-SACK(OED)—BEDSICK—BEDTICK—BESTICK—BESTINK—BESTING—BUSTING—DUSTING
- BEDSOCK—BEDSICK—BEDTICK—BESTICK—BESTINK—BESTING—LESTING(vf)—LASTING
- BERWICK(or in E Sussex)—BESWICK(in E Riding Yorks)—BESWINK—BESWING(OED)—BESTING—BUSTING—
MUSTING(growing mouldy)
- MUSTANG—BICKERS—BUCKERS—BUSKERS—BUSTERS—BUSTEES—BUSTLES—HUSTLES—HUSTLER
- BILKERS—BULKERS—BUSKERS—BUSTERS—BUSTEES—BUSTLES—HUSTLES—HUSTLER
- BILTONG—BILTING(in Kent)—BOLTING—BOLLING—COLLING—CODLING—COD-LINE(OED)—CODLIKE(BI)
and many others such as—RATLIKE
- BINDERS—BENDERS—LENDERS—LEADERS—LEADENS—LEAD-INS—LEADING—LEARING
- BINGERS—BANGERS—BANTERS—BASTERS—FASTERS—FASTENS—FASTINS(vf)—FASTING
- BLANDER—BRANDER—BRANDEN(Dutch, whence brandy)—BRANDON(OED)—BRENDON(in Devon)—BRENTON(BI)—
PRENTON(in Wirral)—PRESTON(in Lancashire). Also PRESTON—CHANGED
- BLARING—BLAMING—BRAMING(OED)—BRIMING—PRIMING—PRIMINE—PRIMITE—PRIMATE
- BLINDER—BLANDER—BRANDER—BRANDEN(Dutch, whence brandy)—BRANDON(OED)—BRANSON(OED 1586 quote
under POUND)—TRANSON(OED)—TRAIISON

BLISTER—BAISTER—PAISTER (OED 1737 quote PASTER)—PALSTER—PALSIER—PALMIER—PALMIET (OED)—PALMIST
 BLUSHER—FLUSHER—FLUSTER—FRUSTER (OED)—FROSTER—FRONTER—FRONTEL (OED)—FRONTAL (normally
 applied on the face)
 BLONDES—BLONDEN (vf)—BRONDEN (OED)—BRANDEN (Dutch, whence brandy)—BRANDON (OED)—BRANTON (in
 Doncaster)—BRAYTON (in N Yorks)—DRAYTON (in Middlesex). Surely better known for its brunettes?
 BOINGED—BRINGED (I'm sure I've heard this with 2-syllable pronunciation from 17th century)—FRINGED—FRIGGED—
 FROGGED—FROGGEN (vf)—FROGMEN—FROGMAN
 BONDAGE—PONDAGE—PONTAGE—PORTAGE—PARTAGE—PARTANE (vf)—PARTANS—PARTONS (nuclear physics, or
 twin salient characteristics of Dolly Parton, needing restraint)
 BONDERS—BENDERS—LENDERS—LEADERS—LEADENS—LEAD-INS (OED)—LEADING—LEARING
 BOTHERS—BATHERS—BATTERS—BATTENS—LATTENS—LATTINS (OED obs LATTEN)—LATTING (vf)—LASTING
 BRAINED—TRAINED—TRAIKED—TRACKED—THACKED—THICKED (OED)—THICKEN—THICK 'UN (OED). A thick 'un
 needs a brain
 BRECHTS (Bertolt, Ger playwright)—BRACHTS (medical)—BRACHES—CRACHES (OED)—CRASHES—CRASHER—CRASTER
 (in Northumberland)—CHASTER. Also—BRACHER (vf)—BRACKER—WRACKER—WHACKER—WHANKER (vf)
 BRICKED—BRACKED—BRACED—BRASTED (vf)—BLASTED—BLASTID—PLASTID—PLASTIC
 BRIXTON (famous jail, and in Devon)—BRAXTON (Braxton Hicks contractions, OED)—BRANTON (in Doncaster)—BRANDON
 (OED, also in Warwickshire)—BRANDEN (Dutch, whence brandy)—BRANDER—BLANDER—SLANDER
 BUDGETS—BUDGERS—BODGERS—CODGERS—CONGERS—CONFERS—CONFIRM (OED)—CONFIRM
 BUGLERS—BULLERS (OED)—PULLERS—POLLERS—POLLEES—POLIEES (vf)—POLITES (Greek, whence cosmopolitan)—POLITER
 BULGIER—BULLIER—BULLIES—BULLEES (vf)—BULLERS (OED)—HULLERS—HILLERS—HITLERS
 also—HAULERS, —WAILERS, —JAILERS, —PIGLETS; and also BULKIER—
 BUMPERS—HUMPERS—HAMPERS—HARPERS—HARPENS (vf)—HARPINS—HARMINS—HARMING (bumper UK = fender US)
 BUMPING—BUMKING (vf)—BUMKINS—BUNKINS (vf)—PUNKINS—PUNKIES—PINKIES—PINKOES (pastime of senator
 McCarthy?). Also BURPING—, BURYING—, BUSTING—
 BUNGLED—BURGLED—BURGLES—BURGEES—BURGEYS (OED)—BURLEYS—BARLEYS—PARLEYS
 BUNTERS—PUNTERS—PUNTEES (OED)—PANTEES (vf)—PANTIES—PANSIES—PALSIES—PALSIED (recall Billy Bunter
 from children's books)
 BURDENS—BURGENS (vf)—BURGEES—BUNGEES (OED)—BUNGLES—BUNGLED—BANGLED—TANGLED
 BURGERS—BURGLES—GURGLES—GARGLES—GARBLER—GAMBLER
 BURIALS—BURIELS (OED)—BURIERS—BURKERS—BUCKERS—BUCKERY (OED)—BOCKERY (vf)—MOCKERY
 BUSKING—BUNKING—BUNKINS (vf)—PUNKINS—PUNKIES—PINKIES—PINKOES—PINTOES (selling secondhand horses or Fords)
 BUSTARD—BASTARD—BASTERD (vf)—BASTERS—BARTERS—BARTELS (OED proper name under DISCRETIZATION)—
 MARTELS (OED)—MARVELS
 BUSTIER—DUSTIER—DUSKIER—DUCKIER—DICKIER (OED)—DICKIES—DICKINS (vf)—DICKENS
 BUTLERS—BUTTERS—BUSTERS—BASTERS—FASTERS—FASTENS—FASTINS (vf)—FASTING
 CABLING—CALLING—COLLING—COLLINE—COLLIGE (vf)—COLLAGE—COLTAGE (OED)—VOLTAGE
 CANDLES—CANDIES—PANDIES—PANTIES—PASTIES—POSTIES (OED)—POSTINS (OSPD)—POSTING
 CANKERS—CANNERS—CANNERY—CONNER (Sean, actor)—CORNER (OED)—CORNELLY (OED)—CORN-FLY—HORN-FLY
 CANTORS—CANTERS—WANTERS—WINTERS—WINDERS—WILDERS—WILDERN—WILDEAN
 CARBINE—CARLINE—CATLINE (Pull, or Proper name under EVEN vb OED)—CUT-LINE—OUTLINE—OUTLANE (in W
 Yorks)—OUTLAW (vf)—OUTLAWS
 CARBONS (also Star Trek for carbon-based life forms)—CARTONS—CARTONE (vf)—CORTONE (?)—CORTINE (vf)—
 CORTILE—COSTILE (OED)—HOSTILE
 CARMINE—HARMINE—HARMINS—HARPINS—HARPENS (vf)—HARPERS—HAMPERS—HUMPERS (scarlet women?)
 also—WONDERS, —OUTLAWS
 CARPELS—CARRELS—MARRELS (vf)—MERRELS (vf)—MERRILS (OED)—MERRILY—MERRIFY—METRIFY
 CARTELS—MARTELS—MARTENS—MARTINS—MARTING—MARKING—MORKING (vf)—MOCKING
 CARVELS—CARTELS—MARTELS—MARTENS—MARTINS—MARTING—MALTING—MELTING
 CASTING—CANTING—DANTING (= daunting)—DENTING—DENTINS—DENTILS—DENTALS—DENIALS (“there was no
 couch”)
 CHANTER—CHANKER (vf)—CHACKER—CRACKER—TRACKER—TRUCKER—TRUCKEE (River, OED under
 running ppl a)—TRUCKIE. Also CHANGER—
 CHANTRY—CHANTEY—CHANTER—CHASTER—COASTER—COUSTER (OED under COST v)—LOUSTER—LOUSIER
 also—SLICKER
 CHAPLIN (also Charlie, actor)—CHAPPIN—CHAPPEN—CHAPPED—CRAPPED—TRAPPED—TRAMPED—TRUMPED
 also—STOMPER

CHARIOT—CHARIET (vf)—CHARIER—CHACIER (Old Fr, whence catch)—CHACKER—CLACKER—SLACKER—SLICKER
 CHARMED—CHAMMED (OED)—CRAMMED—CRAMMEE (OED)—CRAMMLE (OED)—CRAMBLE—TRAMBLE (OED)—
 TRIMBLE (OED, also David, N Irish, Nobel Prize for Peace)
 CHASING—CHAMING (OED)—CHIMING—CRIMING (The Electronic Alveary)—PRIMING—PRIMINE—PRIMITE—PRIMATE
 CHEATOR (vf)—CHEATER—CHESTER—CHASTER—CRASTER (in Northumberland)—CRASHER—CRASHED—TRASHED
 CINDERS—CONDERS (OED)—CORDERS—CORNERS—CORNERY (OED)—CORNELY (OED)—CORNILY—HORNILY
 CITROUS—CITRONS—CITRINS—CITRINE—CATRINE (in E Ayrshire)—CARRINE (vf)—CARDINE—SARDINE (GM food?)
 CLAMPED—CHAMPED—CHAPPED—CHIPPED—WHIPPED—WHIPPEN (Middle Eng, whip)—WHIPPAN (OED)—WHIPMAN
 CLAMPER—CHAMPER—CHAPPER—CHIPPER—CHIPPEN (Middle Eng, chip)—SHIPPEN—SHIPPON—SHIPTON (in N Yorks)
 CLANGER—FLANGER—FLAGGER—FLOGGER—FROGGER—FROGGEN (vf)—FROGMEN—FROGMAN
 CLANGOR—CLANGER—CHANGER—CHANKER (vf)—CHACKER—SHACKER (OED)—SHOCKER—SHOCKED
 CLINGER—SLINGER—STINGER—STINKER—STICKER—STICKEN (older Ger whence stick)—STUCKEN (vf)—STUCK ON
 also—FROGMAN,—SHACKLE etc
 CLINKED—CHINKED—CHIRKE—CHARKED—SHARKED—SHARPED—SHARPEY (OED under pungy)—SHARPLY
 CLOVERS—CLAVERS—SLAVERS—STAVERS—STAGERS—STAGERY—STAGELY (OED)—STAG-FLY
 COITALS—COSTALS—POSTALS—POSTILS—POSTINS—POSTING—POSHING (OED)—PUSHING
 COLGATE (Sted or Colgate Palmolive company)—COLLATE—COLLACE (in Tayside)—COLLACK (OED)—COLLOCK—
 CODLOCK (OED)—CADLOCK—PADLOCK (product lock-in?)
 COMPARE—COMPERE—COMPERS (given in OED as obsolete, but widely used of people who enter competitions)—CAMPERS—
 CARPERS—CARDERS—CARDENS (trans-condyloid amputations)—GARDENS
 also—MARVELS,—GARNETS,—KARTING,—FARTING,—MARKING, etc
 COMPUTE—COMPETE—COMPERE—COMPERS (see above)—CAMPERS—CAPPERS—NAPPERS—NAPIERS (OED, but also
 Napier's bones, ie logarithms)
 CONFIRM—CONFERM (OED)—CONFERS—CONKERS—COCKERS—ROCKERS—ROCKETS—RICKETS
 CORDITE—CONDITE—CONDIRE (Latin, whence condiment)—CONDERE (Latin, whence abscond)—PONDERE (Latin, see OED
 weight)—PONDERS—PANDERS—PANZERS
 CORN-FLY (OED)—CORNELY (OED)—CORNERY (OED)—CONNERY (Sean, Scot Nat Party supporter and tax exile)—
 CANNERY—CANNERS—CANCERS—DANCERS. Also—MINDERS,—FINDERS,—WINGERS,—HUNTERS,
 —PANZERS,—LICKERS,—HACKERS and many others
 COSTING—CASTING—MASTING—MARTING—MARTINS—MARTENS—MARTELS (OED)—MARVELS
 COUPLED—COUPLES—COUPEES (OED)—COUPERS—COMPERS (see above)—COMBERS—CUMBERS—NUMBERS (eg
 Sophie Germaine Twin Primes)
 CUSHIER—MUSHIER—MUSKIER—MUSKIES—MUSKITS—MUSKETS—MASKETS (vf)—MARKETS
 CUTLERY—CUTTERY (vf)—CUTTERS—PUTTERS—PUTTEES—PUTTIES—PATTIES—PARTIES
 DANCERS—LANCERS—LANDERS—LENDERS—LEADERS—LEADENS (OED)—LEAD-INS (OED)—LEADING
 DEFYING—DEFDING (OED)—DEADING—LEADING—LEAD-INS (OED)—LEADENS (OED)—LEADERS—LOADERS
 DENIALS—DENTALS—DENTILS—DENTINS—DENTING—HENTING—HANTING (OSPD)—HALTING
 Also—HURTING,—SLATING,—LASTING,—PARTING,—WASTING,—FARTING,—LUSTING
 DENTALS—DENTILS—DENTINS—DENTING—DANTING (OED)—DAUTING—DAUDING—LAUDING. Also—SPARING etc
 DICKENS—DICKINS (vf)—DICKIES—DUCKIES—DUCKIER—DUSKIER—DUSTIER—LUSTIER
 also—MUSHIER,—FUSTIER
 DISCOER (Ch under disco)—DISCOES (usu discos)—DISCEES (OED)—DISCERS (OED vb disc)—DISPERS (vf)—DUSPERS
 (OED)—DUMPERS—HUMPERS (rude)
 DUELING—DULLING—MULLING—MULLINS (vf)—MULLENS—MULLERS—MILLERS—MILKERS
 DUSTIER—DUSKIER—MUSKIER—MUSKIES—MUSKITS—MUSKETS—MASKETS (vf)—MARKETS
 also FUSTIER,—LUSTIER,—PUSHIER—
 DUSTING—DUNTING—DENTING—DENTINS—DENTILS—DENTALS—MENTALS—MENIALS
 DWARVES—SWARVES (vf)—SWERVES—SWERVED—STERVED (vf)—STERVID (vf)—STEROID—STEGOID
 FAILURE—FAITURE (Old Fr, whence feature)—FARTURE (OED)—PARTURE—PORTURE—PORTARE (Latin, whence port)—
 PORTALE—PORTALS (sci-fi drama)
 FASTING—LASTING—LATTING (vf)—LATTINS—LATTENS—LATTERS—LATHERS—LUTHERS (Ch, under impanation).
 also FARTING,—, and —MILKERS,—MOTHERS,—TINKERS etc
 FATHERS—LATHERS—LATTERS—LATTENS—LATTINS—LATTING (vf)—LASTING—LUSTING
 FILTERS—FALTERS—FASTERS—FASTENS—FASTINS (vf)—FASTING—WASTING—WASHING. Also—LATRINE
 FINDERS—FENDERS—LENDERS—LEADERS—LEADENS—LEAD-INS (OED)—LEADING—LEARING
 FLAKERS—SLAKERS—STAKERS (vf)—STOKERS—STONERS—STONERY (OED)—STONELY (in Cambridgeshire)—
 STONILY (Old Stone Age)
 FLANGED—SLANGED—SPANGED—SPANNED—SPINNED (vf)—SPINNET—SPIGNET—SPIGNUT (Pull)
 FLICKED—SLICKED—SLACKED—SHACKED (vf)—SHARKED—SHARPED—SHARPEY (OED under pungy)—SHARPLY
 FLOWERS—PLOWERS—PROWERS (OED)—PROWESS—PROWEST (1583 quote under geck)—PRODEST (Latin, see OED
 merry-gall)—PRUDEST (vf)—PRUDIST (so the lotus is excluded). Also GLOWERS—
 FRANCIS (St. of Assisi, whence Franciscan)—FRANKIS (vf)—FRANKES (obs franks or Med)—FRANKER—FLANKER—
 FLACKER—FLOCKER—SLOCKER. Also—THICKER,—SLICKER,—PLUCKER, etc

FROGMAN—FROGMEN—FROGGEN (vf)—FRIGGEN (Middle Eng, whence frig)—FRIGGER—FRINGER (OED)—
WRINGER—WHINGER
 FUCKING—MUCKING—MURKING (OED)—MARKING—MARTING—MARTINS—MARTENS—MARTELS
 FURLONG—FURLING—FULLING—WULLING (vf)—WALLING—WALKING—WALKINS (OED obs)—WALKIES
 GANDERS—LANDERS—LENDERS—LEADERS—LEADENS—LEAD-INS (OED)—LEADING—LEAPING
 GLIDERS—SLIDERS—SPIDERS—SPICERS—SPICERY—SPECERY (OED)—SPECFY (OED)—SPECIFY
 HACKERS—HACKEES—HACKLES—TACKLES—TACKLED—TICKLED—TINKLED—TINGLED (as they discovered the
 electric password)
 HAMPERS—HUMPERS—PUMPERS—PULPERS—PULPARS (Sted)—PULSARS—PULSARE (Latin whence pulsate)—PULSATE
 HASTILY—HASTELY (OED)—HASTERY (OED)—LASTERY (OED)—LASTERS—LISTERS—LINTERS—LINGERS
 HAVE-NOT—HAVENET—HAVENED—HAVERED—HOVERED—LOVERED—LOWERED—LOWBRED
 HELPING—HELLING (vf)—TELLING—TELLINS (vf)—TELLENS (vf)—TELLERS—TOLLERS—TOILERS. Also—LOADERS
 HERDING—HEADING—LEADING—LEAD-INS (OED)—LEADENS (OED)—LEADERS—LOADERS—LOAFERS
 HITLER'S (Ch)—HILLERS—SILLERS—SILVERS—SALVERS—SALVORS—SALVOES—SALVOED or POLITER—HITLERS
 HOSTAGE—POSTAGE—PASTAGE (Bi)—PARTAGE—PARTANE (vf)—PARTANS—PARTONS—PARDONS (as Terry Waite did)
 HOUSING—HOISING—POISING—PRISING—PRIMING—PRIMINE—PRIMATE—PRIMATE
 HUNTERS—HUNKERS—HANKERS—HACKERS—HACKEES—HACKLES—TACKLES—TACKLED
 JAILORS—JAILERS—WAILERS—WALLERS (OED)—WILLERS—WILLESS (vf)—WILLEST (vf)—WILDEST
 LANCERS—LANDERS—LENDERS—LEADERS—LEADENS (OED)—LEAD-INS (OED)—LEADING—READING
 LANGUID—LANGUED—LANGLED (OED)—TANGLED—TINGLED—TINKLED—TICKLED—TICKLER
 LATRINE—LATTINE (vf)—LATTINS—LATTENS—LATTERS (OED obs)—PATTERS—PUTTERS—PUNTERS
 LEADING—LEAD-INS (OED)—LEADENS (OED)—LEADERS—LENDERS—LANDERS—WANDERS—WANKERS
 also—WANGERS,—PANZERS etc
 LIMPETS—LIMPERS—LISPERS—LISTERS—MISTERS—MUSTERS—MUSTERD (vf)—MUSTARD (more GM food)
 LINGERS—SINGERS—SANGERS—SAUGERS—SAUCERS—SAUCERY (vf)—SAUCELY (vf)—SAUCILY
 LUSTING—LASTING—WASTING—WARTING (OED)—WARMING—WARMINT (OED)—WARMENT (OED)—WARMEST
 also ROMPING—, SUCKING— and many others
 MANGLED—MANTLED—MANTLES—MANTIES (OED)—PANTIES—PONTIES (OED)—PONTICS—POETICS
 also MANGLES—POETICA
 MANLIER—MARLIER (OSPD)—MURLIER (OED murly)—SURLIER—SURGIER—SURGIEN (vf)—SURGION (OED)—SURGEON
 MARCUSE (Lo)—MARCURE (vf)—MARCERE (Latin, OED marcor)—PARCERE (Latin, OED spare)—PANCERE (vf)—
 PANDERE (Latin, OED expand)—PONDERE (Latin, OED weight)—PONDERS. Naturally the most famous philosopher of our
 times ponders — and mainly in Latin!
 MARKING—MARRING—MARRINE (vf)—MARRITE (OED)—MIRRITE (vf)—MICRITE (OED)—PICRITE—PICRATE
 MATINGS—MATINES (vf)—MARINES—MIRINES (OED)—MIRITES (OED)—MIRATES (OED)—PIRATES—PIRATED
 MELTING—MALTING—MARTING—MARTINS—MARTENS—MARTELS (OED)—MARCELS—PARCELS
 MINDERS—WINDERS—WILDERS—WILDERN—WILDEAN (OED)—WILD MAN (OED)—WOLDMAN (medical, or see OED
 machinable)—WOLF MAN (OED)
 MISTAKE—PISTAKE (OED)—PASTAKE (OED)—PARTAKE—PARTANE (vf)—PARTANS—PARTONS—PARDONS
 MORCELS—MARCELS—MARTELS (OED)—MARTENS—MARTINS—MARTING—WARTING (OED)—WASTING
 MUD-LIKE (Ch under slime)—MIDLIKE (OED)—MID-LINE—MILLINE—MILLANE (vf)—MILLAND (in W Sussex)—OIL-
 LAND—OIL SAND (OED)
 MUSTANG—MUSTING—MASTING—WASTING—WALTING (vf)—WALKING—WALKINS—WALKIES (OED). Also—CATLIKE
 PEDLARS—PEDLERS—PEDDERS (OED)—WEDDERS—WIDDERS—WILDERS—WILDERN (vf)—WILDEAN (OED)
 PONDERS—WONDERS—WINDERS—WILDERS—WILDERN (vf)—WILDEAN (OED)—WILD MAN (OED)—WILY-MAN
 POSTERN—PASTER—PATTERN—PATTERS—RATTERS—RATTENS—RATTONS—RATIONS
 POSTMEN—POSTEEN—POSTERN—PASTER—PASTERS—WASTERS—WALTERS (OED)—WALKERS
 also—BAILERS,—BANGERS,—BANKERS,—BATHERS,—CANKERS,—CUTLERS,—CUTLERY,—FATHERS,—
 —GAINERS,—GAWPERS,—HALVERS,—HITLERS,—LATHERS,—WAILERS,—WAIVERS,—WALKERS,—
 —WANGERS,—WANKERS,—TALKERS,—TANKERS,—WAILERS,—WANDERS,—WITHERS,—TACKERS
 PRAISED—TRAISED (vf)—TRAIKED—TRACKED—THACKED—THICKED (OED)—THICKEN—THICK 'UN (OED)
 RATIONS—RATTONS—RATTENS—RATTERS—RANTERS—WANTERS—WINTERS—WINTERY
 SHARPLY—SHARPEY (OED pungy)—SHARKEY (vf)—SHARKED—SHACKED (vf)—THACKED—TRACKED—TRICKED
 STEPHAN (Ch, Archduke whence stephanite)—STEPHEN (even Stephen)—STEPPEN (vf)—STIPPEN—SHIPPEN—WHIPPEN
 (Middle Eng, whence whip)—WHIPPER—WHIMPER
 STERNLY—ST. ERNEY (in Cornwall)—STERNED—STARNED (The Electronic Alveary)—STARKED (OED)—SHARKED—
 SHACKED (vf)—WHACKED. Also—THANKED,—VAUNTED
 STICK-ON (OED)—STICKEN (OED stick, 1609 quote)—STICKER—SHICKER—WHICKER—WHACKER—WHANKER (vf)—
 WHANGER (OED) and others
 TRUCKIE (OED)—TRUCKEE (River, OED running)—TRUCKER—TRACKER—THACKER—WHACKER—WHANKER (vf)—
 WHANGER (OED)
 WORMING—WARMING—WARMINT (OED)—WARMENT (OED)—WARMEST—WARIEST—WANIEST (OSPD)—ZANIEST
 BUSTLED, BURGLED have many ladders

Ideal Ladders with sequential letter change (selection of less than 10% of those found)

forward

BASTERS or CASTERS or EASTERS or FASTERS (OED)—MASTERS—MISTERS—MILTERS—MILLERS—MILLARS (vf)—MILLAIS (English painter or UK place)—MILLAIN (vf)
 DUSTERS or LUSTERS—MUSTERS then as above
 BATABLE (vf)—RATABLE—RETABLE—RENABLE—RENOBLE (OED)—RENOWLE (vf)—RENOWNE (vf)—RENOWNN (vf)
 BLINKED or CLINKED—SLINKED (vf)—SPINKED (OED)—SPANKED—SPARKED—SPARRED—SPAR-ROD (OED)—SPARROW
 BLOCKED—CLOCKED—CROCKED—CRACKED—CRANKED—CRANIAD (OED)—CRANIAD—CRANIAL
 BLOTTED or PLOTTED—SLOTTED—STOTTED (OED *stot*)—STETTED—STERTED (vf)—STERNED—STERNAD—STERNAL
 BLUNTER—CLUNTER—CHUNTER—CHANTER—CHAPTER—CHAPPER—CHAPPOR (vf)—CHAPPOW
 BOPPERS or COPPERS—DOPPERS (OED)—DIPPERS—DISPERS (vf)—DISCERS (OED *disc* = to cultivate)—DISCORS (vf)—DISCOES (a plural of disco?)—DISCOED (OED under *disco*, or *Llanvair D*) or —DISCOER (Ch, under *disco*)
 BURETTE—SURETTE—SCRETTE (vf)—SCHETTE (vf)—SCHOTTE (vf)—SCHOLTE (vf)—SCHOLAE (Web2)—SCHOLAR also —SCHOOTE (vf)—SCHOOLE (vf)—SCHOOLS
 CANNERY—TANNERY—TUNNERY—TURNERY—TURBERY (vf)—TURBARY—TURBANY (OED)—TURBANS
 CARCASE—PARCASE (OED)—PERCASE—PEN-CASE (OED)—PENDASE (OED)—PENDISE (OED)—PENDINE (in *Dyfed*)—PENDING
 CLICKER—SLICKER—STICKER—STACKER—STARKER—STARTER—STARTOR (Web2)—STARTOP (vf)
 DATABLE—RATABLE—RETABLE—RENABLE—RENOBLE (OED)—RENOWLE (vf)—RENOWNE (vf)—RENOWNN (vf)
 DINNERY or GINNERY—TINNERY—TUNNERY—TURNERY—TURBERY (vf)—TURBARY—TURBANY (OED)—TURBANT (vf)
 FAINTED—SAINTED—STINTED—STENTED—STERTED (vf)—STERRED (vf)—STERRID (OED)—STERRIT (vf) also ending —STERVED—STERVID—STERVIT (all vf)
 FLOTTEN (vf)—GLOTTEN (OED)—GROTTEN (vf)—GRUTTEN—GRUNTEN (vf)—GRUNDEN (vf)—GRUNDYN (OED)—GRUNDYL (vf)
 GNASHED—SNASHED (OED)—SLASHED—SLUSHED—SLUGHED (vf)—SLUGGED—SLUGGYD (vf)—SLUGGYN (vf)
 HEWABLE—SEWABLE—SCWABLE (vf)—SCRABLE (vf)—SCRIBLE (vf)—SCRIPLE (OED)—SCRIPPE (vf)—SCRIPPS (vf) or ROWABLE—SOWABLE then as above
 HITTITE—PITTITE—PETTITE (vf)—PENTITE (Web2)—PENNITE (vf)—PENNATE—PENNALE (Latin *pen-case*, hence *pennal*)—PENNALS (OED). Also ending —PENNARE (OED)—PENNARD (OED)
 KNAPPED—SNAPPED—STAPPED—STAPPED—STEEPED—STEERED—STEERID (vf)—STEERIE (OED)
 KNICKER—SNICKER—STICKER—STACKER—STARKER—STARTER—STARTOR (Web2)—STARTON (Ch, under *start*)
 PALETTE—SALETTE (vf)—SCLETTE—SCHETTE—SCHOTTE—SCHOLTE—SCHOLAE (Web2)—SCHOLAR
 PILLOCK (OED)—SILLOCK—SELLOCK (OED)—SEA-LOCK (OED)—SEA-DOCK (OED)—SEA-DUCK—SEA-DUSK (OED)—SEA-DUST (under *sea*, OED)
 SWADDLE—TWADDLE—TRADDLE (vf)—TREDDLE—TREADLE—TREATLE (vf)—TREATEE—TREATED or TREATER also SWINDLE—TWINDLE—TRINDLE—TRENDLE then as above

reverse

BENZOLS—BENZOLE—BENZONE (OED)—BENZINE—BENTINE (Peruvian comedian, OED *goon*)—BETTINE (OED *worship* 1838 quote)—BOTTINE—ROTTINE (vf)
 BORNEOL—BORNEON (vf)—BORNEAN—BORN MAN (OED)—BORDMAN (OED)—BONDMAN—BANDMAN—SANDMAN
 CAREERS—CAREERE (vf)—CAREENE (vf)—CAREINE (vf)—CARLINE—CATLINE (Pull)—CUTLINE (OSPD)—OUTLINE. Also —SYPRINE,—NITRINE,—VITRINE
 CARPALS—CARPALE—CARPARE (OED)—CARPERE (Latin, whence *carp* vb)—CARTERE (vf)—CAUTERE (vf)—COUTERE (OED)—SOUTERE (vf)
 COLLINS—COLLINE—COLLIGE (vf)—COLLAGE—COLTAGE (OED)—COSTAGE—CUSTAGE (vf)—FUSTAGE (OED)/MUSTAGE (vf). Also COLLETS—COLLETE (vf)—COLLEGE—
 COMPASS—COMPAST—COMPART—COMPORT—COMFORT—CONFORT (vf)—CUNFORT (OED)—KUNFORT (vf)
 CONVAIR (OED *satelloid*, aerospace coy)—CONVAIL (OED)—CONVALL (OED)—CONVELL—CONNELL (OED *connellite* which he discovered)—CORNELL (vf)—CARNELL (vf)—DARNELL TEA/FARNELL (in *Angus*)/PARNELL (vf)/WARNELL (vf). Also —CURNELL—GURNELL,—CURNELL—TURNELL, all OED
 CRAMMED/CRAMMER—CRAMMEE (OED)—CRAMMLE (OED)—CRAMPLE (OED)—CRAPPLE—CRIPPLE—CHIPPLE (vf)—WHIPPLE (OED)
 CRANIAL (or CRANIAN)—CRANIAD—CRANIAD (OED)—CRANKED—CRACKED—CRICKED—CLICKED—LICKED/SLICKED. Also —CROCKED—CHOCKED—SHOCKED/FLOCKED
 CRESTED—CRESTEN (OED)—CRESTIN (vf)—CRESPIN (OED)—CREPPIN (vf)—CROPPIN (vf)—CHOPPIN (vf)—SHOPPIN (OED)
 DISCOED (*Llanfair-Discoed* in *Mon*)/DISCOER (Ch)—DISCOES (*usu pl discos*)—DISCORS (vf)—DISCERS (*Roget*)—DISPERS (vf)—DIPPERS—DAPPERS (OED *vbl n*)—LAPPERS/MAPPERS/NAPPERS/RAPPERS/SAPPERS/TAPPERS/YAPPERS/ZAPPERS all OSPD

as above but—DOPPERS (OED)—HOPPERS/KOPPERS/LOPPERS/MOPPERS/POPPERS/TOPPERS/YOPPERS
 GLASSED/GLASSER/GLASSES—GLASSEN—GLASSON (in Cumbria)—GLASTON (in Rutland)—GLANTON (in
 Northumberland)—GLINTON (in Peterborough)—GRINTON (in N Yorks)—PRINT ON (OED)
 GLASSED/GLASSER/GLASSES—GLASSEN—GLASSON (in Cumbria)—GLASTON (in Rutland)—GLATTON (in
 Cambridgeshire)—GLOTTON (vf)—GROTTON (vf, or in Oldham)—TROTTON (in Sussex, or Old Ger whence trot)
 PARTICK (in Glasgow)—PARTICE (vf)—PARTIRE (Latin, hence partite)—PARTURE—PARDURE (OED)—PANDURE (vf)—
 PONDURE (OED)—RONDURE
 PARTITA—PARTITE—PARTIRE (Latin, hence partite)—PARTURE—PARDURE (OED)—PANDURE (vf)—PONDURE (OED)—
 RONDURE
 PENNALS (OED)—PENNALE (Latin, whence pennal)—PENNATE—PENNITE (vf)—PENTITE (Web2)—PETTITE (vf)—
 PITTITE—WITTITE (OED). Also PENNARD—PENNARE, both OED
 RENOWNS—RENOWNE (vf)—RENOWLE (vf)—RENOBLE (OED)—RENABLE—RETABLE—RATABLE—SATABLE/
 VATABLE
 SCHOLAR—SCHOLAE (Web2)—SCHOLDE (vf)—SCHODDE (vf)—SCHEDDE (vf)—SCREDDE (vf)—SHREDDE (vf)—
 THREDDE (vf)
 SCHOLAR—SCHOLAE (Web2)—SCHOLTE (vf)—SCHOTTE (vf)—SCHETTE (vf)—SCLETTE (vf)—SALETTE (vf)—VALETTE (vf)
 SCHOLAR—SCHOLAE (Web2)—SCHOLTE (vf)—SCHOTTE (vf)—SCHETTE (vf)—SCRETTE (vf)—SURETTE—TURETTE
 (OED). Also —SYRETTE—TYRETTE, both vf
 SCHOOLS/SCHOLLY (OED)—SCHOOLE (vf)—SCHOOTE (vf)—SCHOTTE (vf)—SCHETTE (vf)—SCRETTE (vf)—
 SURETTE—TURETTE (OED). Also —SYRETTE—TYRETTE and —SCLETTE—SALETTE—VALETTE, all five vf
 SCRIPPS (OED scrip 1676 quote, or Scripps Institute)—SCRIPPE (vf)—SCRIPLE (OED)—SCRILLE (vf)—SCRYLLE (vf)—
 SCWYLLE (vf)—SOWYLLE (vf)—TOWYLLE (vf). Also —SCRIBLE—SCRABLE—SCWABLE—SOWABLE (all vf)—
 TOWABLE
 SEA-DUST (OED under sea)—SEA DUSK (OED)—SEA-DUCK (OED)—SEADOCK (OED)—SEA-LOCK (OED)—SELLOCK
 (OED)—SILLOCK—WILLOCK
 SPARROW—SPAR-ROD (OED)—SPARRED—SPARKED—SPANKED—SPINKED (OED)—SLINKED (vf)—X-LINKED/
 Y-LINKED (both OED). Also SWINKED—TWINKED (TEA)
 SPINACH—SPINACE (OED)—SPINALE (Sted)—SPINTLE (OED)—SPITTLE—SPATTLE—SWATTLE—TWATTLE.
 Also —SPETTLE (vf)—SHETTLE (vf)—WHETTLE
 SQUIRTS/SQUIRTY—SQUIRTE (vf)—SQUIRLE (OED)—SQUILLE (vf)—SQUYLLE (vf)—SQWYLLE (vf)—SOWYLLE (vf)—
 TOWYLLE (vf)
 STANDEE/STANDER—STANDEN (vf)—STAND ON—STANTON—START ON (Ch)—STURTON (in N Lincs)—SHURTON (in
 Somerset)—THURTON (in Norfolk)
 STERNAL—STERNAD—STERNED—STERTED (vf)—STENTED—STINTED—SAINTED—TAINTED
 STRAINS—STRAINE (vf)—STRAIDE (vf)—STRANDE (vf)—STRUNDE (vf)—STOUNDE (vf)—SWOUNDE (vf)—YWOUNDE
 (vf). Also STARITS—STRAITE (vf)—
 STROPPI—STROPPE (vf)—STROPHE—STROTTE (OED)—STRATHE (vf)—STEATHE (vf)—SNEATHE (Web2)—UNEATHE
 (Ch, Old English)

Ideal Ladders between heterograms with sequential letter change

forward

CHURTON (in Cheshire)—SHURTON (in Somerset)—STURTON (Supergram Dict, also in N Lincs)—START ON (Ch, under start)—
 STANTON—STAND ON (OED)—STANDEN (vf)—STANDEL (vf) or STANDER
 CLOUNGE (vf) or PLOUNGE (vf)—SLOUNGE—STOUNGE (vf)—STRUNGE (vf)—STRINGE (vf)—STRIGGE (vf)—
 STRIGAE—STRIGAL
 FAINTED or PAINTED—SAINTED—STINTED—STENTED—STERTED (vf)—STERNED—STERNAD—STERNAL
 GAUNTED or HAUNTED or JAUNTED—SAUNTED (saunt is obs saint, so cf sainted)—STUNTED then as above
 IWOUNDE—SWOUNDE—STOUNDE—STRUNDE—STRANDE—STRAIDE—STRAINE—STRAING (all OED variant forms)

reverse

BRINGAL (vf)—BRINGAN (vf)—BRING ON (Ch)—BRINTON (Sted, or in Norfolk)—BRIXTON (prison, or in Devon)—
 BRAXTON (OED, B Hicks)—BLAXTON (in Doncaster)—CLAXTON PLA /FLAXTON PLA. Also BRINGED (? b-ring? or
 Med Eng)—BRINGEN (vf)
 CONFUSA (Sted)—CONFUSE—CONFUTE—CONFITE (OED)—CONDITE—CORDITE—CARDITE (OED)—LARDITE/
 VARDITE (vf)/WARDITE
 STERNAL—STERNAD—STERNED—STERTED (vf)—STENTED—STUNTED—SAUNTED (obs saint, cf sainted)—VAUNTED
 STRAING—STRAINE—STRAIDE—STRANDE—STRUNDE—STOUNDE—SWOUNDE—YWOUNDE (all OED variant forms)