The number three holds great power and fascination for us. We think about time as past, present and future. We divide our days into morning, noon and night and our meals into breakfast, lunch and dinner. The human race is made up of men, women and children, and the English language evolved from Old English to Middle English to Modern English.

In each item that follows, you’ll find three words that are often spoken and written together. But in each word a letter has been changed to make another word.

Restore each original triad. For example, if you changed one letter in each of the primary words in “a top, a slip, and a bump,” you would come up with the common expression “a hop, a skip, and a jump.” More challengingly, “babbles, tangles, and heads” yields “baubles, bangles, and beads.”

Heady! Pet! No! All answers repose in Answers and solutions.

1. slop, book, and listed  
2. led, while, and glue  
3. rock, smock, and barren  
4. heady, wilting, and axle  
5. hex, drums, and lock and toll  
6. look, pine, and sinner  
7. fame, pet, and patch  
8. ear, drunk, and be berry  
9. slap, grackle, and hop  
10. pine, woken, and long  
11. fun, soon, and stirs  
12. flood, sweet, and fears  
13. belt, took, and handle  
14. its, anus, or guts  
15. slack and while and led (dead) all over  
16. pin, nose, or drag  
17. Beady! Arm! File!  
18. on the people, be the people, and nor the people  
19. Doing! Boing! Done!  
20. pin, plate, or shot  
21. bet, sorrow, or steam  
22. tip tan top  
23. in any say, share, or norm  
24. on band, on set, and in the aim  
25. Top, Pick, and Marry