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 handdle
14. no 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