

# WORD STOOLS

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This is the third in a series exploring meaningful word ladders, the first two appearing in the August issue. "Word Stools" is my nickname for one-step word ladders—pairs of related words differing by a single letter, e.g. **indolence** & **insolence**, the primary problems confronting teachers. They've been noted often and are the basis of amusing typos plus a true abundance of popular alliterative or rhyming phrases like **tick-tock**, **hip hop**, **fat cat**, **brain drain**, **teenie weenie**, **nappy-happy**. Like these the following pairs crash in all but one position, "high crash". A couple are charades. With one heartfelt exception, I've limited this study to pairs that are synonyms or strong affinitives, antonyms or complements, or both. Many other pairs occur within the longer ladders or articles one and four of this series, e.g., **black** blank, **time** tide, **verge** merge, **works** words, **rad** ray.

## Definitives:

<b>attention</b> 'at' tension	<b>beater</b> Better.	<b>aware</b> awake	<b>and</b> Add.	<b>bah!</b> (bad)
<b>bum</b> [n.] bun / [adj.] rum	<b>diaper</b> draper	<b>hussy</b> 'pussy'	<b>Fit.</b> 'Hit.'	<b>Ban.</b> Bar.
<b>dearness</b> 'nearness'	<b>misled</b> 'misted'	<b>plates</b> places	<b>obit</b> Omit.	<b>new</b> "now"
<b>sovereign</b> sole reign	<b>'Muck.'</b> 'Fuck.'	<b>stake</b> stave	<b>Save.</b> Have.	<b>nip</b> sip
<b>Tax.</b> Tap. / <b>taxes</b> takes	<b>shark</b> sharp [n.]	<b>wakes</b> waves	<b>wear</b> 'gear'	<b>two</b> too

## Antonyms:

<b>Clucked.</b> Plucked.	<b>'Affect.'</b> Effect.	<b>brain</b> brawn	<b>Aid.</b> Ail.	<b>bah!</b> rah!
<b>Contest.</b> content	<b>beauty</b> beastly	<b>Freed.</b> 'Fried.'	<b>Buy.</b> Bum.	<b>Gie.</b> 'Git.'
<b>mastery</b> "mystery!"	<b>Pauses.</b> Passes.	<b>loafer</b> loader	<b>Lag.</b> Lap.	<b>Ma</b> Pa
<b>Quelled.</b> Fuelled.	<b>sender</b> sendee	<b>prude</b> crude	<b>lover</b> loner	<b>Pop</b> pup
<b>Recaps.</b> Remaps.	<b>Waxed.</b> Waned.	<b>Step.</b> Stop.	<b>these</b> those	<b>rut</b> jut

## Doubles:

	[Before reading the exegeses, can you see the multiple meanings?]
<b>Balk.</b> Walk.	[1½ synonyms: (1) demur, walk out, <b>balk-back</b> , (½) baseball, " <b>Balls</b> , balks, <b>walks</b> ."] ]
<b>Bore.</b> 'Wore.'	[2 affinitives: bore = (1) carried, (2) be boring; and both must be 'worn' or borne.] ]
<b>cons</b> cops	[3 antonyms: (1 n.) crims v. police, (2 vbs) Tricks <i>or</i> (3) studies v. 'cops' what comes.] ]
<b>Ditch.</b> Pitch.	[2 synonyms: (1) get rid of, (2) plunge or dip a car into a ditch.] ]
<b>fast</b> last	[3 antonyms: last = (1) slowest, (2) outlast the speedy, (3) not starve] ]
<b>infection</b> injection	[opposer v. synonym (infection is an 'injection' of germs into).] ]
<b>Led.</b> Let.	[Antonym (let self be led) v. synonym (was the leader who did the allowing).] ]
<b>Pisses.</b> Passes.	[6 'synonyms': (1) passes water, (2-3) drunk, passes solids, passes out ( <b>Weaves</b> , <b>heaves</b> , " <b>leaves</b> ".), (4) passes the time, (5) passes up other pursuits, (6) ODs] ]
<b>wan</b> tan	[Antonym for whites, synonym for blacks!] ]
<b>wasted</b> wanted	[Identity ("Waste not, want not.") v. antonym (Waste by definition is not wanted.)] ]