ALPHABETICALLY-ADJACENT LETTER REPLACEMENT

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One letter of the first word is replaced by one of its 2 alphabetically-adjacent letters (1 in the case of A and Z). Using this principle, we can make various length word chains.

4 WORDS

CANE – CAME - DAME – DANE              COSIES - COSIER - COSHER - COSHERS
DAM – DAN – CAN – BAN                   DASHED - CASHED - BASHED - BATHED
FUN - GUN – HUN – HUM                  GARTER - FARTER - FASTER - EASTER
SPOT – SOOT – ROOT – ROOS

5 WORDS

BART - BARS - CARS - CART - DART
BATTER - BASTER - BARTER - CARTER - DARTER
BUSTER - BUTTER - CUTTER - CUSTER - DUSTER
CASES - BASES - BARES - CARES - DARES
MASTER – LASTER – LATTER – MATTER – NATTER
MOPS - MOOS - MOOT - LOOT – LOOS
MOSS - MOST – LOST – LOSS – LOTS
NATTER - MATTER – LATTER – LASTER – MASTER
ROUSER - ROUTER - ROTTER - ROSTER - ROSSER
THANE - THAME – SHAME – SHANE – SHAND
TOWER – SOWER – ROWER – ROVER – ROVES
6 WORDS
BARD – CARD – CARE – BARE – BASE – CASE
LATHES – LASHES – MASHES – Masher – Lasher – LATHER
LETTER – LESTER – LESSER – Messer – Messes – Nesses
LOTT – LOTS – LOSS – LOST – MOST – MOSS
LOVES – LOVER – LOWER – MOWER – MOVER – MOVES
MOOTER – LOOTER – LOOSER – LOOSES – MooseS – NOOSES
TEAT – TEAS – TEAR – SEAR – SEAS – SEAT

7 WORDS
BARED – BASED – CASED – CARED – DARED – EARED – FAReD

9 WORDS

11 WORDS

My longest chain has 12 WORDS: