

BUILD YOUR OWN LADDER!

Materials

Use **two copies** of a blank word ladder template (page 193 or online).

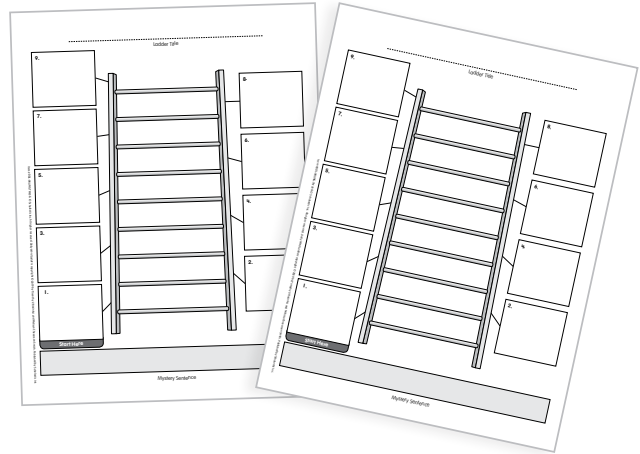
- **Copy 1:** This is your answer key!
- **Copy 2:** This copy is for your friends to solve!

Directions

1. Choose two related words that aren't too long. Examples:
 - *silver-lining* (idiomatic expression)
 - *sum-add* (topics you're studying)
 - *field-day* (events/news)
2. On Copy 1, write one word at the top of your ladder and one word at the bottom of your ladder.
3. List all the words in between, changing, adding, or taking away a letter or two at a time with each new word. These are the answers to your ladder!

TIP!

Underline each letter in the answers to help you write the letter clues in the next step!



HINT:

It may be helpful to first make your list of words on a piece of scratch paper.

Can You Keep a Secret?

Ladder Title

	<u>w</u> <u>o</u> <u>r</u> <u>d</u>	
	<u>c</u> <u>o</u> <u>r</u> <u>d</u>	
	<u>c</u> <u>o</u> <u>l</u> <u>d</u>	
	<u>t</u> <u>o</u> <u>l</u> <u>d</u>	
	<u>f</u> <u>o</u> <u>l</u> <u>d</u>	
	<u>m</u> <u>o</u> <u>l</u> <u>d</u>	
	<u>m</u> <u>o</u> <u>m</u>	
	<u>m</u> <u>u</u> <u>m</u>	

Start Here

Idiom: mum 's the word .

Meaning: Keep this quiet! Don't tell.

Mystery Sentence or Idiom

Copy 1

4. Write two clues about each new word. In the clue box, include

- a meaning clue.
- a letter clue (how to change the structure of the word).

1. Parent

Change 1 letter.

Start Here

m o m

m u m

places like a basement.

Drop the last letter and add a

5. Write the idiom and its meaning at the bottom of the ladder, underlining the answers (top and bottom words of the ladder). Or write a Mystery Sentence using those two words in a meaningful way.

Idiom: mum 's the word .

Meaning: Keep this quiet! Don't tell.

Mystery Sentence or Idiom

6. When your ladder is complete, use Copy 2 to

- fill in the first (bottom) word and all the clue boxes.
- add the Mystery Sentence at the bottom, leaving blank lines where the top and bottom words fit.
- add the exact number of lines in each rung for the letters in each word.
- add a relevant title.

7. Make copies of your Copy 2 page so that classmates, friends, family members, or teachers can try to solve your puzzle. Then use your original word ladder (Copy 1) to check their answers!

Can You Keep a Secret?

Ladder Title

7. A part of a sentence.
Change 1 letter.

5. Opposite of hot.
Change 1 letter.

3. A direction for making origami.
Change 1 letter.

1. Parent
Change 1 letter.
Start Here

6. A small rope or wire.
Change 1 letter.

4. Past tense of tell. I ____ my sister a bedtime story.
Change 1 letter.

2. This gross stuff grows in damp places like a basement.
Drop the last letter and add 2.

m u m

Idiom: _____ 's the _____

Meaning: Keep this quiet! Don't tell.

Mystery Sentence or Idiom

Copy 2