

Name _____

Word Chain Quest Answer Key

Possible Word Chains (many correct answers are acceptable):

1. cat → bat → bag → bog → log
2. pen → pin → pit → sit → sit
3. map → mop → mop → top → top
4. fin → fan → man → mad → mad

Challenge Relay:

Answers will vary. Example: hat → hot → hog → pod → bed

Teacher Notes / Guide

- **Purpose:** Word Chain Relays encourage students to **decode carefully while tracking single-sound changes**, boosting fluency and accuracy.
- **Implementation:**
 - Model one example aloud: "cat → bat. I changed the /c/ to /b/."
 - Have students work individually or in pairs to fill in blanks.
 - After chains are built, students should chorally read their chains for fluency practice.
- **Fluency Tip:** Encourage students to read chains "like a race," but with accuracy first. Once correct, they can increase speed with repeated practice.
- **Differentiation:**
 - For struggling readers: Provide the middle steps with one blank missing.
 - For advanced readers: Extend to **6-7 word chains** with blends (e.g., "flag → flap → slat → slot").
- **Assessment:** Check accuracy of word substitutions. Listen for smooth reading when students reread completed chains aloud. The challenge relay shows independent application.