Word ladders: Hard (5-letter words)

Name: _____ Date: _____ · Change one letter at a time. Every step must be a real word. Use the clue to find each one.

1. STICK to STONE (5 steps)

S T I C K	Start
_ _ _ _ _	A neat pile of things
_ _ _ _ _	Bare and plain
_ _ _ _ _	To look at something for a long time
_ _ _ _ _	A shop
S T O N E	Finish

2. BREAD to GREEN (5 steps)

B R E A D	Start
_ _ _ _ _	To step or walk on something
_ _ _ _ _	Something special, like a sweet
_ _ _ _ _	Very good
_ _ _ _ _	To say hello to someone
G R E E N	Finish

3. PLANT to BEACH (5 steps)

P L A N T	Start
_ _ _ _ _	It flies passengers through the sky
_ _ _ _ _	A spot or a position
_ _ _ _ _	Quiet and calm, with no war
_ _ _ _ _	A soft, fuzzy fruit
B E A C H	Finish

4. SNAKE to SHIRT (5 steps)

S N A K E	Start
_ _ _ _ _	To move quickly up and down
_ _ _ _ _	To let others have some
_ _ _ _ _	Where the land meets the sea
_ _ _ _ _	Not long
S H I R T	Finish

5. BLACK to BRAIN (5 steps)

B L A C K	Start
_ _ _ _ _	Empty, with nothing written on it
_ _ _ _ _	Without much taste
_ _ _ _ _	The name a company sells its products under
_ _ _ _ _	Hair woven into a plait
B R A I N	Finish

6. CLOCK to TRUCK (5 steps)

C L O C K	Start
_ _ _ _ _	The sound a computer mouse makes
_ _ _ _ _	A baby bird
_ _ _ _ _	Not thin
_ _ _ _ _	Something done to fool someone
T R U C K	Finish

7. WATER to RIVER (6 steps)

W A T E R	Start
	To be unsure, or to wobble
	Someone who keeps money instead of spending it
	To cut something off
	A bar you push down to lift something heavy
	An organ in your body that cleans your blood
R I V E R	Finish

8. SLEEP to DREAM (8 steps)

S L E E P	Start
	A farm animal with a woolly coat
	Very steep, like a cliff
	To shout to support someone
	The side of your face
	A small stream
	The sound an old door makes
	The thick part at the top of milk
D R E A M	Finish

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Answer key: Hard

1. STICK → STACK → STARK → STARE → STORE → STONE
2. BREAD → TREAD → TREAT → GREAT → GREET → GREEN
3. PLANT → PLANE → PLACE → PEACE → PEACH → BEACH
4. SNAKE → SHAKE → SHARE → SHORE → SHORT → SHIRT
5. BLACK → BLANK → BLAND → BRAND → BRAID → BRAIN
6. CLOCK → CLICK → CHICK → THICK → TRICK → TRUCK
7. WATER → WAVER → SAVER → SEVER → LEVER → LIVER → RIVER
8. SLEEP → SHEEP → SHEER → CHEER → CHEEK → CREEK → CREAK → CREAM → DREAM