Word ladders: answers and notes

What your child practised: synonyms, antonyms and shades of meaning, choosing a stronger word (Year 3).

Page 1 · Warm up

happy, glad **S** · tiny, huge **A** · quick, fast **S** · noisy, quiet **A**

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary, e.g. chilly → cold → freezing.

Page 2 · A. Weakest to strongest

1. warm → hot → boiling
2. damp → wet → soaking
3. whisper → talk → shout
4. cool → cold → freezing
5. nibble → eat → gobble

Page 3 · B. Synonyms

begin → **start** · shut → **close** · angry → **cross** · quick → **fast**

Page 3 · C. Antonyms

tall → **short** · empty → **full** · early → **late** · ancient → **new** or **modern**

Page 3 · D. Stronger words

Answers will vary, e.g. a **glorious** day · **gigantic** and **terrifying** · **exhausted** after the race.

Page 3 · Challenge

No. Warm is on the **same side** as hot, just weaker, so it's a (weaker) synonym. The opposite of hot is **cold**.

Watch out for

- **Picking an opposite when asked for a synonym.** Ask "Same team or opposite team?" before writing.
- **Mixing up which word is stronger**, like hot and boiling. Act it out: "warm" is a gentle fan of the face, "boiling" is a big puff!

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Word ladders:** say a word like cold and take turns finding weaker and stronger ones (chilly, cold, freezing).
- **Opposite snap:** say a word; your child says its opposite as fast as they like.
- **In the game:** Chapter 4, Prefix Potions, shows how prefixes like un- and dis- change a word's meaning.