Word Chain Daily review: a free word puzzle the whole family can solve together

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Seven words, five missing links, and a new puzzle every day. What Word Chain Daily is, why it suits a family breakfast, and what to know before you play.

Word Chain Daily is a free daily word puzzle where you fill in the five missing words of a seven-word chain, so that every neighbouring pair makes a real phrase or compound word, like coffee table and table tennis. It needs no sign-up, there is a new puzzle each day, and you can keep going with unlimited practice. We've added it at number four on our list of 17 word games the whole family can play, after its maker, Miro, wrote to suggest it. Peabody (peabody.kids) is free for everyone through the end of 2026.

We wrote this from Word Chain Daily's own pages on 14 November 2026, so treat it as a guide to what the site says it does.

How a chain works

You get the first and last word of the chain, plus the first letter and the length of each missing word. Start with COFFEE at one end and a clue like T____ (5) and TABLE is a good guess: coffee table. Then TABLE has to meet the next word too, and the whole chain has to connect from both ends. A link can be an open phrase (table tennis) or a closed compound (court and room become courtroom).

It is not the last-letter game that shares the name. Here, neighbouring words connect by meaning and usage, and the site says so right up front, which saves a lot of confusion at the table.

Why it suits a family

- Everyone can add a link. A younger player can spot "ball" in snowball while a grown-up works out the awkward middle, and nobody needs to know the whole answer.
- It starts gently. The examples page has three challenges that grow from one missing word to five, each with an optional hint, a worked answer and a short meaning for every connection. It is a good place to learn the idea before the daily puzzle.
- It gets people talking. Arguing over whether "party line" counts is the point.
- No pressure. Practice has its own collection and doesn't touch your daily streak, and a chain you leave unfinished stays saved in your browser.

Three ways to play together

1. Breakfast team. Read the two end words aloud and let everyone call out guesses for the first gap. Agree as a team before anyone types, and the talk is half the fun.
2. Pass the phone. Each person fills one gap, and the next person has to make a link to it. If someone is stuck, the first-letter and length clue is there to lean on.
3. Work backwards. The site notes you can connect from either end or from any gap, so try the gap that feels easiest, not the first one. It's a good habit for any puzzle.

What it teaches without trying

A word chain is really a game about how words live together. Children meet compound words (clubhouse, courtroom), set phrases (room service, line dance) and the idea that one word can mean different things in different company. After each finished chain the game explains all six connections, which turns a solved puzzle into a tiny vocabulary lesson. If your child likes this, our library has stories at every reading level for the same curiosity about words.

For classrooms and printing

Since we first wrote this, Word Chain Daily has added three things that fit families and teachers. A Classroom page is aimed at teachers and ESL classes, at about B1 level for ages 11 and up. A Printable page has recent puzzles to print, with the answer key on a separate sheet so it isn't on the player's page. And a Thanksgiving set of five family-friendly chains, also printable, is ready for a table full of relatives. We took these from Miro's note and the site's own pages.

Good to know

The daily puzzle changes at 08:00 UTC, which is the middle of the night in much of the US, so the date on a puzzle can differ from your calendar. We saw no ads on the pages we read. The site offers an optional analytics choice and keeps it off until you allow it. We'd suggest it for ages 9 and up, or younger with a helper.

It's a small, well explained idea, and a nice five minutes to share over breakfast.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/word-chain-daily-review