

Treasure of Classic
and Modern Puzzles

Word Puzzles

tea

pot

word

golf

cold

warm

ape

man

hand

foot

ship

dock

Doublets

by Lewis Carroll

Carroll's solitaire game of Doublets is one of the most well known games with words, and without doubt everyone will know it. Lewis Carroll created the Doublets game in 1877 as a Christmas gift for two girls. Since then the game has appeared in many different languages in numerous books, magazines and newspapers all around the World. It has different names - Word-Links, Doublets, Word Golf, Transformations, Word Ladder and many other, but the idea of all these games is the same.

This idea is to take two words of the same length, and then to change one word into the other, changing one letter each time; all unchanged letters of each intermediate word keep their positions. All the words you use as intermediate must be real words common enough to be found in a standard dictionary. You aren't allowed to use proper names for the linking words though.

We've chosen six different Doublets which you may try to solve.

Treasure of Classic
and Modern Puzzles

Word Puzzles

tea

pea

pet

pot

word

wold

wolf

golf

cold

cord

word

worm

warm

ape

apt

opt

oat

mat

man

hand

band

bond

fond

font

foot

ship

slip

slap

soap

soak

sock

dock

Doublets (solution)

Solutions to all the six Doublets are shown on the left.

The Doublets "ape-man", "tea-pot" and "ship-dock" were created by Lewis Carroll; the last two of them were rediscovered by Edward Wakeling.

The Doublet "cold-warm" was proposed by Dmitri Borgmann.

The Doublet "word-golf" is created from the name given to the Doublets game by Vladimir Nabokov.

The Doublet "hand-foot" was found in Professor Hoffmann's book "Hoffmann's Puzzles Old & New"; he shows a six-step solution.