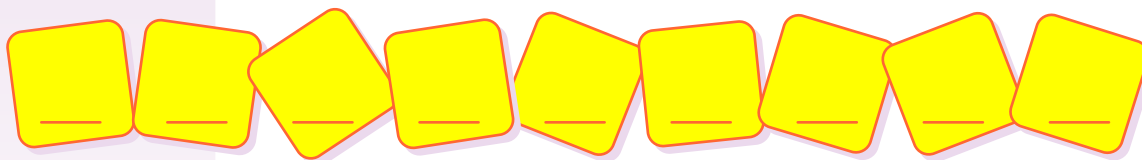


Hints, Advice  
and Info

## Mini-Contests



### Word Downsizing\*

I need help solving this puzzle---- There is a common English word that is nine letters long. Each time you remove a letter from it, it still remains an English word - from nine letters right down to a single letter. What is the original word, and what are the words that it becomes after removing one letter at a time?

Hopefully you will be able to figure this out THANKS!!

~ Kristi ~

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\* This puzzle belongs to an interesting kind of word puzzles with letter insertion/deletion.

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## Mini-Contests

### Word Downsizing (solution)

It was a hard challenge, so we've got just a few correct solutions. Some of them were just partially correct - they had a correct starting word, but some of their intermediate words weren't real English words. Some of them were correct, but they used plurals; this isn't too good if the respective singulars of these words exist.

Bottom we show the best solution to this puzzle and several more solutions we've got from you.

The best possible word to this puzzle is STARTLING. It gives eight more words as follows:

S T A R T L I N G  
S T A R T I N G  
S T A R I N G  
S T R I N G  
S T I N G  
S I N G  
S I N  
I N  
I

This unique variant is shown in Martin Gardner's book *Perplexing Puzzles and Tantalizing Teasers*.

Hints, Advice  
and Info

## Mini-Contests

### Some Solutions by Philippe Guglielmetti

replanted, replated, related, elated, elate, late, ate, at, a

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restarted, restated, restate, estate, state, sate, ate, at, a

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streambed, streamed, steamed, teamed, tamed, tame,  
tam, am, a