

Answer

spread, pierce, regret, errata, acetic, detach

A helpful way to approach this problem is to realize that constructing this kind of sequence is equivalent to putting the words in a 6x6 “crossword puzzle” grid whose rows are the same as its columns:

S	P	R	E	A	D
P	I	E	R	C	E
R	E	G	R	E	T
E	R	R	A	T	A
A	C	E	T	I	C
D	E	T	A	C	H

“SPREAD” and “ACETIC” could overlap at either ‘E’ or at ‘A’. If they overlapped at ‘E’, since ‘E’ is the fourth letter of “SPREAD”, it would make “ACETIC” the fourth word, and since ‘E’ is the third letter of “ACETIC”, “SPREAD” would have to be the third word. So then our partial grid would look like:

.	.	S	A	.	.
.	.	P	C	.	.
S	P	R	E	A	D
A	C	E	T	I	C
.	.	A	I	.	.
.	.	D	C	.	.

Because there are so few words of the form “..PC..” or “..DC..”, this not very promising (and in fact turns out to be impossible).

Letting “SPREAD” and “ACETIC” share the ‘A’ is more productive:

S	P	R	E	A	D
P	.	.	.	C	.
R	.	.	.	E	.
E	.	.	.	T	.
A	C	E	T	I	C
D	.	.	.	C	.

From there, a natural next step would be to guess that the second word was of the form “P (vowel) (vowel) (consonant) C (vowel)”, since vowels tend to follow consonants and consonants tend to follow vowels, but then you have to just guess and backtrack.

Other solutions are also possible, for example:

attach, teethe, teeter, attire, cherub, hereby