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Let P be a poset and let P^* be the set of all finite length words over P . Generalized subword order is the partial order on P^* obtained by letting $u \leq w$ if and only if there is a subword u' of w having the same length as u such that each element of u is less than or equal to the corresponding element of u' in the partial order on P . Classical subword order arises when P is an antichain, while letting P be a chain gives an order on compositions. For any finite poset P , we use discrete Morse theory to give a simple formula for the Möbius function of P^* in terms of the Möbius function of P . This permits us to rederive in an easy and uniform manner previous results of Björner, Sagan and Vatter, and Tomie. (Received September 16, 2011)