

KS3 English Quiz - Onomatopoeia 01 (Questions)

Onomatopoeia refers to words which make the sound they suggest, e.g. zip, crack, crash, buzz. Onomatopoeia is hard to say and even harder to spell, however it's not as scary as it looks!

Onomatopoeia can be used in an unsubtle way, as you might remember from childhood books and nursery rhymes. The writing of animal sounds is an example of onomatopoeia. Sounds to replicate those of nature or of terrible accidents are familiar, too, and you might have seen onomatopoeia in graphic novels as visual sound effects.

Poets and other writers use onomatopoeia to make you "hear" particular sounds when reading, as when they write of "reeds whispering", "branches creaking" or "water gurgling". It's good to experiment with onomatopoeia in order to make your writing more interesting, but try to use it sparingly and inventively, since many of these phrases have become cliched over time.

There are two quizzes on the subject, so to sharpen your onomatopoeic skills, give them both a go!

1. Find the onomatopoeic word(s) in the following sentence.

Listen! The fire is crackling and the the wood is hissing.

- crackling, hissing
- fire, coals
- is, are
- Listen, is

2. Find the onomatopoeic word(s) in the following sentence.

The bees buzzed and whizzed from flower to flower.

- bees, flower
- buzzed, whizzed
- flower, flower
- from, to

3. Find the onomatopoeic word(s) in the following sentence.

"Zap!" "Pow!" "Splat!" The hero was the winner.

- hero, was, winner
- the, hero, was
- Zap, hero, splat
- Zap, pow, splat

4. Find the onomatopoeic word(s) in the following sentence.

Birds chirped as they flew over the gurgling stream.

- Birds, flew
- Birds, stream
- chirped, gurgling
- flew, stream

5. Find the onomatopoeic word(s) in the following sentence.

The storm broke with rain and flashes of lightning.

- flashes
- lightning
- rain
- storm

6. Find the onomatopoeic word(s) in the following sentence.

Dogs splashed and splashed in the burbling brook.

- Dogs, splashed, burbling
- splashed, brook, burbling
- splashed, splashed, brook
- splashed, splashed, burbling

7. Find the onomatopoeic word(s) in the following sentence.

The old chair rasped and creaked as it rocked.

- chair, rocked
- old, chair
- old, it
- rasped, creaked

8. Find the onomatopoeic word(s) in the following sentence.

The wind shrieked and blew the rattling leaves along.

- blew, along
- leaves, along
- shrieked, rattling
- wind, leaves

9. Find the onomatopoeic word(s) in the following sentence.

Wailing gnats whirred around the cascading water.

- gnats, whirred, cascading
- Wailing, water, cascading
- Wailing, whirred, cascading
- Wailing, whirred, water

10. Find the onomatopoeic word(s) in the following sentence.

The saucepan lids crashed and clattered onto the floor.

- crashed, clattered
- lids, floor
- saucepan, floor
- saucepan, lids

KS3 English Quiz - Onomatopoeia 01 (Answers)

1. Find the onomatopoeic word(s) in the following sentence.

Listen! The fire is crackling and the the wood is hissing.

- crackling, hissing
- fire, coals
- is, are
- Listen, is

"Crackling" and "hissing" are onomatopoeic words

2. Find the onomatopoeic word(s) in the following sentence.

The bees buzzed and whizzed from flower to flower.

- bees, flower
- buzzed, whizzed
- flower, flower
- from, to

Use onomatopoeia to make your writing interesting

3. Find the onomatopoeic word(s) in the following sentence.

"Zap!" "Pow!" "Splat!" The hero was the winner.

- hero, was, winner
- the, hero, was
- Zap, hero, splat
- Zap, pow, splat

Keep a list of onomatopoeic words to use in writing

4. Find the onomatopoeic word(s) in the following sentence.

Birds chirped as they flew over the gurgling stream.

- Birds, flew
- Birds, stream
- chirped, gurgling
- flew, stream

Animal sounds are onomatopoeic: for example, "baa" and "quack"

5. Find the onomatopoeic word(s) in the following sentence.

The storm broke with rain and flashes of lightning.

- flashes
- lightning
- rain
- storm

"Crash", "bang", "thump" and "thud" describe storms too

6. Find the onomatopoeic word(s) in the following sentence.

Dogs splashed and splashed in the burbling brook.

- Dogs, splashed, burbling
- splashed, brook, burbling
- splashed, splashed, brook
- splashed, splashed, burbling

You can use "chattering" or "bubbling" for the brook too

7. Find the onomatopoeic word(s) in the following sentence.

The old chair rasped and creaked as it rocked.

- chair, rocked
- old, chair
- old, it
- rasped, creaked

You could also use "squeaked" or "squealed" for "creaked"

8. Find the onomatopoeic word(s) in the following sentence.

The wind shrieked and blew the rattling leaves along.

- blew, along
- leaves, along
- shrieked, rattling
- wind, leaves

Using "rattle" informs the reader that the leaves are dry

9. Find the onomatopoeic word(s) in the following sentence.

Wailing gnats whirred around the cascading water.

- gnats, whirred, cascading
- Wailing, water, cascading
- Wailing, whirred, cascading
- Wailing, whirred, water

You could use "gushing" or "plunging" for the water too

10. Find the onomatopoeic word(s) in the following sentence.

The saucepan lids crashed and clattered onto the floor.

- crashed, clattered
- lids, floor
- saucepan, floor
- saucepan, lids

Other suitable noisy words include "clashed" and "jangled"