

KS3 English Quiz - Spelling (Plurals for words ending in o) 01 (Questions)

For some words which end in -o add -es to form their plurals. For example, the word "hero" becomes "heroes" when plural.

Forming plurals is fairly easy in English. You could think of the basic rule as being to add -s to make a noun plural, being sure to remember that there are also many exceptions. It might, however, be more accurate to say that the basic rule is that, to make a plural in English, we add -s or -es. The only exceptions to this rule would be those words which do not change in their plural forms (i.e. "deer") and a few words from other languages whose plural has not been Anglicised, which means so thoroughly adopted into English that it obeys English rules. For instance, teachers talk about a "curriculum" or many "curricula" because the word still obeys its Latin rules.

So, if we think of plurals in English as being usually formed by the addition of an -s or -es, how do we know which one to use when? There is a surprisingly simple way to tell which words need an -es added. These are words ending in f, ch, sh, x, s, ss and z as well as vowels such as o and y. If you say words such as "churches" or "dishes" aloud, you will see that they need the extra syllable provided by the -es. In the case of the the letter o, you can imagine that -os would not be pronounced the same way as -oes. The additional e keeps the vowel long. This quiz focusses on words ending in -o. So, get ready to add an -es to the plurals!

Here is an English spelling quiz so you can get to grips with the subject. Be warned...not all plurals for words ending in 'o' require an 'e'.

1. Select the correct spelling for the missing word.
He shouted, "help!", and his word returned in many

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- echo
- echoes
- echos
- echows

2. Select the correct spelling for the missing word.
There are two active on the island.

- volcano
- volcanoe
- volcanoes
- volcanos

3. Select the correct spelling for the missing word.
I'll take ten ripe please.

- tomato
- tomatoe
- tomatoes
- tomatos

4. Select the correct spelling for the missing word.
Large sacks of are on offer today.

- potato
- potatoe
- potatoes
- potatos

5. Select the correct spelling for the missing word.
The submarine launched two

- torpedo
- torpedoe
- torpedoes
- torpedos

6. Select the correct spelling for the missing word.
The winning athletes returned as triumphant

- hero
- heroe
- heroes
- heros

7. Select the correct spelling for the missing word.
The fleet of ships were laden with their

- cargo
- cargoe
- cargoes
- cargoose

8. Select the correct spelling for the missing word.
The toppled over one after the other in a long line.

- domino
- dominoe
- dominoes
- dominus

9. Select the correct spelling for the missing word.
The orchestra needed three for the trio.

- piano
- pianoe
- pianoes
- pianos

10. Select the correct spelling for the missing word.
The actors sang several in the school play.

- solo
- sloes
- soloes
- solos

KS3 English Quiz - Spelling (Plurals for words ending in o) 01 (Answers)

1. Select the correct spelling for the missing word.
He shouted, "help!", and his word returned in many

-
 echo
 echoes
 echos
 echows

Echo ends in -o and adds -es when plural

2. Select the correct spelling for the missing word.
There are two active on the island.

- volcano
 volcanoe
 volcanoes
 volcanos

Adding -es to create a plural shows that there are exceptions to the basic rule that plurals are formed by simply adding an -s

3. Select the correct spelling for the missing word.
I'll take ten ripe please.

- tomato
 tomatoe
 tomatoes
 tomatos

There are some exceptions to the rule of adding -es to make a noun ending in -o plural. For instance, the musical terms "piano", "duo" and "solo" are exceptions

4. Select the correct spelling for the missing word.
Large sacks of are on offer today.

- potato
 potatoe
 potatoes
 potatos

Can you see the word "toes" at the end of "potatoes"? It would be amusing if the word "toes" were plural for "to"!

5. Select the correct spelling for the missing word.
The submarine launched two

- torpedo
 torpedoe
 torpedoes
 torpedos

Most words ending in -o require an -es to create a plural

6. Select the correct spelling for the missing word.
The winning athletes returned as triumphant

- hero
 heroe
 heroes
 heros

Remember the e!

7. Select the correct spelling for the missing word.
The fleet of ships were laden with their

- cargo
 cargoe
 cargoes
 cargoose

A "cargoose" is a diving bird. "Cargos" is also acceptable

8. Select the correct spelling for the missing word.
The toppled over one after the other in a long line.

- domino
 dominoe
 dominoes
 dominus

Here are some exceptions to the rule that words ending in -o require an -es in the plural form: logos, gazebos, infernos, eskimos

9. Select the correct spelling for the missing word.
The orchestra needed three for the trio.

- piano
 pianoe
 pianoes
 pianos

Tricky! Piano is an exception and adds only -s

10. Select the correct spelling for the missing word.
The actors sang several in the school play.

- solo
 sloes
 soloes
 solos

Another exception, solo adds -s in plural. Musical terms (many of which are Italian in origin) do not generally follow the -es rule