

Knowing certain spelling rules can help us become better spellers.

When a word ends in two consonants and we want to add **-ed** or **-ing** no letters are doubled. For example, **bang** becomes **banged** and **banging**.

When a word ends in a consonant with one vowel before it we double the last letter before adding **-ed** or **-ing**. For example, **beg** — becomes **begged** or **begging**.

When a word ends in a silent **-e** we drop the **-e** before adding **-ing**. For example, **shine** — **shining**. Exceptions include singeing, dyeing, canoeing, ageing.

If the suffix begins with a consonant the silent **-e** is usually retained. For example, **care** — **careful**

Example

Write the correct spelling.

Ian is _____ the wood. (choping chopping)

Answer = Ian is **chopping** the wood.



Now do these the same way.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. The store was _____ last night.
(robed robbed) | 7. I am _____ he will arrive soon.
(hopful hopeful) |
| 2. The children are _____ a song.
(singging singing) | 8. Tommy is _____ the cake.
(icing iceing) |
| 3. The car _____ at the corner.
(stoped stopped) | 9. The teacher is _____ the cloth blue.
(dying dyeing) |
| 4. I am _____ the football match.
(watching watchhing) | 10. I thought his work was quite _____.
(hopless hopeless) |
| 5. The dog is _____ the cat.
(chasing chaseing) | 11. Billy is _____ to fix his old bike.
(triing trying) |
| 6. I am _____ to my friends.
(waveing waving) | 12. The bees are _____ loudly.
(huming humming) |

The word plural means more than one.

1. Most words simply add **-s** to form their plurals. For example, one **cat** — two **cats**
2. Words ending in **-ch, -s, -sh, -z** or **-x** add **-es** to make their plurals.
For example, one **bush** — two **bushes**
3. Most words ending in **-o** add **-es** to make their plurals. For example, one **tomato** — two **tomatoes**.
However some, like piano, kangaroo, bamboo, photo, boo, radio, banjo, just add **-s**.

Example

Write the plural in the space.

There are three _____ in this street. (church)

Answer = There are three **churches** in this street.



Now do these the same way.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are lots of tall _____ in this forest.
(tree) 2. I saw two _____ in our backyard.
(fox) 3. The good fairy gave me three _____.
(wish) 4. I ate two _____ for my lunch.
(peach) 5. The baker baked seven _____ of bread.
(batch) 6. We had to dig two _____ around the tents.
(ditch) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. All the _____ are on the table.
(glass) 8. Mel has five new hair _____.
(brush) 9. There are seven _____ on the kitchen table.
(potato) 10. I took lots of _____ on my trip.
(photo) 11. There are lots of _____ in Hawaii.
(volcano) 12. We listened to the football on the two _____.
(radio) |
|--|---|

Read this with a grown-up and discuss any tricky words.

My pet spider's name is Webster. Webster loves eating lollies and chocolates. One day I gave Webster bubblegum to try. His legs got stuck together. He couldn't move. So I gave him a bath. I sat him on the soap and



he slid into the water. He nearly drowned. Then I used Mum's hairdryer. I tried to blow his legs apart. Poor Webster flew into the kitchen and crash-

landed in the butter. "Michael, get that spider out of here," Mum yelled.

Now Webster's legs were stuck together and he was covered in butter. I had to help him. I thought Webster must be hungry. He was in no state to catch a fly on his own. I left Webster on a plate in my room and went to catch some flies. It wasn't easy, until I took my shoes off. I made a discovery! Flies love smelly socks. I ran inside with flies all over my

socks. "Webster," I called. "I've got some yummy lunch for you."

"Oh no!" I froze. Webster and the plate were gone. "Mum, where's the plate that was in my room?"

"I put it in the dishwasher," said Mum. "Nooo!" I yelled. I opened the dishwasher. Two plates were stuck together. It had to be Webster and the bubblegum. Webster must have been squashed. A tear rolled down my face.

After school the next day I went straight home. I went to my room, shut the door and lay on my bed. I closed my eyes and thought about Webster.

"Aaaa!" Mum screamed.

I ran into the kitchen. "What's wrong, Mum?"

"Your spider was in my soup." Mum didn't look happy.

"Webster, you're alive!" I had a huge grin on my face. "Thanks Mum."

Webster's legs were fine. The bubblegum was gone. I gave Webster a high-five. It was unreal to have him back.

by Linda Stocks (abridged)

GLOSSARY

hungry
discovery

wanting food
something found

stuck
unreal

not able to move
fantastic

**We
practise**



LITERAL

1 What does the pet spider like to eat?

The spider likes to eat

2 What happened when Webster tried bubblegum?

3 How did Michael try to fix this?

4 Where was Webster finally found?

5 What started all the trouble with Webster?

6 Did Michael's mother like Webster?

7 Did Michael look after his pet spider well?

8 Did Michael love his pet spider?

9 Should pets eat human food?

10 Are spiders good pets to have?

INTERPRETIVE

APPLIED

