

Test Your Vocabulary Skills

22 English Words with Three Bs in the Spelling

It is quite unusual to find three Bs in the spelling of an English word. In this exercise you will meet twenty-two of them. Match the words a) to v) with the gaps in the sentences below:

KEY: adj = adjective, g = gerund, n = noun, v = verb

a) babble (v)	i) bobbing (g)	q) bubble (n)
b) babbling (a)	j) bobbin (n)	r) bubbling (g)
c) blabber (n)	k) bobbins (n)	s) bubbly (adj / n)
d) blabbering (g)	l) bobble (n)	t) clubbable (adj)
e) blabbed (v)	m) blubbed (v)	u) hubbub (n)
f) blabbermouth (n)	n) blubber (n)	v) scrubbable (adj)
g) blobby (adj)	o) bobby (n)	
h) Blobby (n)	p) Bobby (n)	

1. Somebody who gossips about other people's secrets or problems is called a _____.
2. A _____ is the top part of a woolly hat which is shaped like a ball.
3. If something is covered in spots, e.g. spots of paint on your clothes, or shaped like a blob, it looks _____.
4. A person who is very sociable and joins in with many different groups can be called _____.
5. If you drop a cork into a bucket of water, it will move up and down, _____ on the surface.
6. Carbonated water or chocolate with air pumped into it can be described as _____, while this word can describe a person with a lively and attractive attitude and, used as a noun, is also a slang word for champagne.
7. The person who speaks a lot of nonsense can be said to be _____ incoherently.
8. If you bring a pan of water to the boil or boil water in a kettle the water will be _____.
9. The background noise made by a group of people all talking at once from which you can't hear any distinct words is called a _____.
10. A small stream of fresh water which makes a gentle noise as it passes over stones is called a _____ brook.
11. A _____ is something you make when blowing into gum. There are also millions of these in every can of carbonated drink.
12. A _____ is a small metal cylinder that holds thread in a sewing machine.
13. If something is described as _____ you can wash or clean it very vigorously.
14. The speech of a foolish person who doesn't say anything worth listening to is _____.
15. If somebody was upset, they may have 'cried their eyes out'. Another way to describe this was that they _____.
16. To _____ means to talk quickly so that it is difficult to hear individual words.

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17. The word _____ describes the layer of fat on a whale. It can also be an informal word to describe excess fat on a person's body.

18. If you give away another person's secret, you have _____.

19. The word _____ (all lower case) is a slang term for a police officer – named after Sir Robert Peel who founded the Metropolitan Police in 1829 – as well as a kind of hair grip or pin.

20. If you call something _____ it means you dislike it – it is rubbish. For example, a book, film, or TV programme is poor. It is an inoffensive way of saying something isn't very good.

21. The infamous British TV character who was pink with yellow spots and was popular in the 1990s was named Mr _____ (with a capital B first).

22. _____ (with a capital B first) is a Christian name which is the short form of Robert or Roberta.

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Answers:

1. Somebody who gossips about other people's secrets or problems is called a **f) BLABBERMOUTH**.
2. A **l) BOBBLE** is the top part of a woolly hat which is shaped like a ball.
3. If something is covered in spots, e.g. spots of paint on your clothes, or shaped like a blob, it looks **g) BLOBBY**.
4. A person who is very sociable and joins in with many different groups can be called **t) CLUBBABLE**.
5. If you drop a cork into a bucket of water, it will move up and down, **i) BOBBING** on the surface.
6. Carbonated water or chocolate with air pumped into it can be described as **s) BUBBLY**, while this word can describe a person with a lively and attractive attitude and, used as a noun, is also a slang word for champagne.
7. The person who speaks a lot of nonsense can be said to be **d) BLABBERING** incoherently.
8. If you bring a pan of water to the boil or boil water in a kettle the water will be **r) BUBBLING**.
9. The background noise made by a group of people all talking at once from which you can't hear any distinct words is called a **u) HUBBUB**.
10. A small stream of fresh water which makes a gentle noise as it passes over stones is called a **b) BABBLING** brook.
11. A **q) BUBBLE** is something you make when blowing into gum. There are also millions of these in every can of carbonated drink.
12. A **j) BOBBIN** is a small metal cylinder that holds thread in a sewing machine.
13. If something is described as **v) SCRUBBABLE** you can wash or clean it very vigorously.
14. The speech of a foolish person who doesn't say anything worth listening to is **c) BLABBER**.
15. If somebody was upset, they may have 'cried their eyes out'. Another way to describe this was that they **m) BLUBBED**.
16. To **a) BABBLE** means to talk quickly so that it is difficult to hear individual words.
17. The word **n) BLUBBER** describes the layer of fat on a whale. It can also be an informal word to describe excess fat on a person's body.
18. If you give away another person's secret, you have **e) BLABBED**.
19. The word **o) BOBBY** (all lower case: bobby) is a slang term for a police officer – named after Sir Robert Peel, who founded the Metropolitan Police in 1829 – as well as a kind of hair grip or pin.
20. If you call something **k) BOBBINS** it means you dislike it – it is rubbish. For example, a book, film, or TV programme is poor. It is an inoffensive way of saying something isn't very good.

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21. The infamous British TV character who was pink with yellow spots and was popular in the 1990s was named Mr **h) BLOBBY** (with a capital B first: Blobby).

22. **p) BOBBY** (with a capital B first: Bobby) is a Christian name which is the short form of Robert or Roberta.