

## English Vocabulary: Consecutive Vowels

### 1) 3 consecutive vowels

In the English language, there are many words (thousands) which have 3 consecutive vowels. For example:

- beautiful
- gorge**ous**
- **ui**et

### 2) 4 consecutive vowels

There are over 300 words in English which have 4 consecutive vowels, but the majority are scientific, archaic or uncommon. Here are some examples:

- aq**ueous**
- Hawai**ii**an
- obsequ**ui**ous
- q**uee**
- onomatop**oeia**

### 3) 5 consecutive vowels

English words which have 5 consecutive vowels are very rare, but one common example is:

- que**uee**ing

However, many people think that the word should be written as “queuing” (without the ‘e’), following the rule of “dropping the ‘e’ before ‘-ing” (e.g. like / liking). But most dictionaries show both forms as possible.

### 4) 6 consecutive vowels

English words which have 6 consecutive vowels are extremely rare, but one example is:

- arch**aeoaeo**lotropic

(meaning: “a piece of ancient material that is not equally elastic when pulled in different directions”)

## English Vocabulary: Consecutive Consonants

### 1) 3 consecutive consonants

In the English language, 3 consecutive consonants in a word is very common. For example:

- **s**plit
- pre**scr**ibe
- app**le**

### 2) 4 consecutive consonants

There are also many words which have 4 consecutive consonants. Here are some examples:

- coun**try**
- birth**day**
- **sys**tem
- stre**ng**th
- gang**st**er

However, some people consider that the letter "y" should be a vowel!

### 3) 5 consecutive consonants

Many English words have 5 consecutive consonants, but the majority are compound nouns. For example:

- birth**pl**ace
- back**st**roke
- down**st**ream
- thousan**nd**ths
- post**sc**ript
- mat**ch**stick

Some people would say that plurals do not count!

### 4) 6 consecutive consonants

There are not many English words which have 6 consecutive consonants, and the majority are compound nouns, scientific words, foreign words or placenames. For example:

- **catch**phrase (compound noun)
- **esch**scholtzia (scientific word for the California Poppy)
- welt**sch**merz (from German, meaning "depression")
- **Knights**bridge (district in London)

