

# Lesson 2 – Novel use of the count tool for literacy

## Aim

- To use the count tool to answer hypotheses about common letters in use.


## Success criteria

- Children can use a spreadsheet to work out which letters appear most often.
- Children can use the 'how many' tool.


## Resources

- 2Calculate tool

## Activities

- Explain that we are going to see how spreadsheets can also be used for literacy and for carrying out investigations.
- Open a new spreadsheet in advanced mode.
- Remind the children how to make their spreadsheet bigger by clicking on the + in the button on the bottom right of the screen to add more cells. 
- In this lesson we will be testing out a hypothesis about which letters are most commonly used in the English language. We will start off by asking whether 'e' is the most popular vowel. We will start off by asking whether 'e' is the most popular vowel.
- Create a spreadsheet like the following picture:

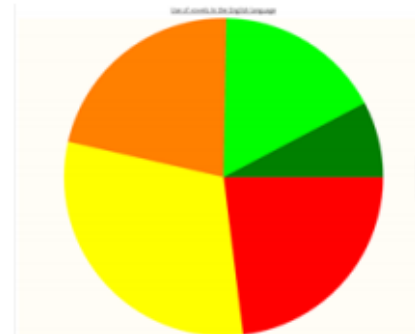
Test out a hypothesis about which letter is most common in the English language.	Is 'e' the most popular letter in the English language?	What other letters do you think might be popular?
a		
e		
i		
o		
u		

- The vowels on the left-hand side are the variables that we are going to get the spreadsheet to count. Click on the cells next to the letter 'a' and add a 'how many' tool from the controls toolbox on the right-hand side. 

- This tool will count all of the letter 'a's on the spreadsheet except for the cell to its immediate left.
- Ask children to create a similar spreadsheet and add the 'how many' tool for each vowel. Which is the most common vowel so far?

Test out a hypothesis about which letter is most common in the English language.	Is 'e' the most popular letter in the English language?	What other letters do you think might be popular?
a		9
e		16
i		9
o		12
u		7

- Add some common consonants e.g. m, t, s, c, p and see how the count updates.
- Add some more sentences for the tools to count. These can be typed into cells or copied and pasted e.g. from a website such as an online encyclopaedia.
- Can children answer questions about the most popular letters? Can they use the spreadsheet to answer hypotheses e.g. Certain genres will use a greater variety of letters than others?
- Can children present their results in a graph?



- The count tool can also count words as well as individual letters. Can children suggest words to count? They could enter a variety of connectives for example and see which is the most commonly used in a variety of texts.