

Pronunciation of Verbs and Nouns Ending in -s and -es

These pronunciation rules apply to verbs and nouns ending in -s and -es:

The endings -s and -es are pronounced as /s/ or /z/, or as an extra syllable /ɪz/ at the end of third person [singular](#) verbs and [plural](#) nouns. The pronunciation depends on the final sound of the simple form of the [verb](#) or [noun](#):

If the simple form ends with the sounds /s/, /z/, /sh/, /zh/, /ch/, /j/, /ks/, then pronounce -s and -es as an extra syllable /ɪz/:

Verbs

slice	----	slices (c = /s/)
lose	----	loses (s = /z/)
wash	----	washes
watch	----	watches
judge	----	judges
relax	----	relaxes (x = /ks/)

Nouns

price	----	prices (c = /s/)
size	----	sizes
dish	----	dishes
garage	----	garages (ge = /zh/)
inch	----	inches
language	----	languages

If the simple form ends with the voiceless sounds /p/, /t/, /k/, /f/, or /th/, then pronounce -s and -es as /s/

Verbs

sleep	sleeps
hit	hits
work	works
laugh	laughs (gh = /f/)

Nouns

grape	grapes
cat	cats
book	books
cuff	cuffs
fifth	fifths

If the simple form ends with any other consonant or with a vowel sound, then pronounce -s and -es as /z/:

Verbs

learn	learns
go	goes

Nouns

name	names
boy	boys

Pronunciation of Verbs Ending in -ed

These pronunciation rules are for verbs ending in ed:

The ending -ed is pronounced as an extra syllable /ɪd/, or as /t/ or /d/ at the end of the simple past and past [participle](#) forms of verbs. The pronunciation depends on the final sound of the simple form of the verb:

If the simple form of the verb ends with the sounds / t / or / d /, then pronounce -ed as an extra syllable /ɪd/:

Verbs

start	started
need	needed
wait	waited
decide	decided

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If the simple form ends with the voiceless sounds /f/, /k/, /p/, /s/, /ʃ/, /tʃ/, /ks/, then pronounce -ed as / t /:

Verbs

laugh	laughed (gh = / f /
wish	wished
look	looked
watch	watched
jump	jumped
fax	faxed (x = /ks/)
slice	sliced (c= /s/)

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If the simple form ends with the voiced sounds /b/, /g/, /j/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /l/, /r/, /lth/, /v/, /z/, or with a vowel, then pronounce -ed as /d/:

Verbs

rob	robbed
call	called
brag	bragged
order	ordered
judge	judged
bathe	bathed

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hum	hummed
rain	rained
wave	waved
close	closed (s = /z/)
bang	banged
play	played