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/-- Iz/, or as an extra syllable Iiz/ 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/, /j/, /ks/, then pronounce -s and -es as an extra syllable /iz/:

Verbs		Nouns	
slice	slices (c = /s/)		prices (c= /s/)
lose	loses (s = $/z/$)	size ·	sizes
wash	washes	dish ·	dishes
watch	watches	garage ·	garages (ge = /zh/
judge	judges	inch ·	inches
relax	relaxes $(x = /ks/)$	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		Nouns		
sleep	sleeps	grape	grapes	
hit	hits	cat	cats	
work	works	book	books	
laugh	laughs $(gh = /f/)$	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		Nouns	
learn	learns	name	names
go	goes	boy	boys

These pronunciation rules are for verbs ending in ed:

The ending -ed is pronounced as an extra syllable /id/, 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 I d /, then pronounce -ed as an extra syllable /id/:

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/, s/, s/, t/, 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/, /ng/, /l/, /r/, /th/, /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