

Writing & English Language Support

Pronunciation: final “ed” & “s”

Overview

The final **-ed** ending has three different pronunciations: /t/, /d/, and /ed/

Final **-ed** is pronounced /t/ after all voiceless sounds. Voiceless sounds are made by pushing air through your mouth; no sound comes from your throat.

Examples of voiceless sounds: “K”, “P”, “S”, “Ch”, “Sh”, “F”

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|----------|---|-----------|
| • Look <u>ed</u> | → | looked | → | look/t/ |
| • Clap <u>ed</u> | → | clapped | → | clap/t/ |
| • Miss <u>ed</u> | → | missed | → | miss/t/ |
| • Watch <u>ed</u> | → | watched | → | watch/t/ |
| • Finish <u>ed</u> | → | finished | → | finish/t/ |

Final **-ed** is pronounced /d/ after voiced sounds. Voiced sounds come from your throat. Touch your neck when you make a voiced sound, you can feel your voice box vibrate.

Examples of voiced sounds: “L”, “V”, “N”, “B” and all vowel sounds.

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---------|---|----------|
| • Smell <u>ed</u> | → | smelled | → | smell/d/ |
| • Save <u>ed</u> | → | saved | → | save/d/ |
| • Clean <u>ed</u> | → | cleaned | → | clean/d/ |
| • Rob <u>ed</u> | → | robbed | → | rob/d/ |
| • Play <u>ed</u> | → | played | → | play/d/ |

Final **-ed** is pronounced /ed/ after “T”, and “D” sounds. The sound /ed/ adds a whole syllable to a word.

Example: Looked □ look/t/ = one syllable; Needed □ need/ed/ = two syllables

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---------|---|------------|
| • Decide <u>ed</u> | → | decided | → | decide/ed/ |
| • Need <u>ed</u> | → | needed | → | need/ed/ |
| • Want <u>ed</u> | → | wanted | → | want/ed/ |
| • Invite <u>ed</u> | → | invited | → | invite/ed/ |

Pronunciation of –s, -es

To make a noun plural, a final **-s** or **-es** is added to the noun

- Noun + **s**: Friend + s = Friends
- Noun + **es**: I like my classes

A final **-s** or **-es** is added to a present tense verb when the subject is a singular noun, e.g. my father works at a bank. (My father is a singular noun)

- Verb + **s**: Mary enjoys cooking
- Verb + **es**: John watches the baseball game

Final **-s** is pronounced /s/ after voiceless sounds, as in “T”, “P”, and “K”

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|-------|---|---------|
| • Seat <u>s</u> | → | seats | → | seat/s/ |
| • Rope <u>s</u> | → | ropes | → | rope/s/ |

- Back → backs → back/s/

Final **-s** is pronounced /z/ after voiced sounds, as in “**D**”, “**B**”, “**G**” and “**EE**”

- Seed → seeds → seed/z/
- Robe → robes → robe/z/
- Bag → bags → bag/z/
- See → sees → see/z/

Final **-s** and **-es** are pronounced /ez/ after “**SH**,” “**CH**,” “**S**,” “**Z**,” and “**GE**,” “**DGE**”. The /ez/ ending adds a syllable.

- Dish → dishes → dish/ez/
- Catch → catches → catch/ez/
- Kiss → kisses → kiss/ez/
- Mix → mixes → mix/ez/
- Prize → prizes → prize/ez/
- Edge → edges → edge/ez/

Spelling: Final -s/-es

Most words (verbs & nouns), add a final **-s**

- sing → sings; song → songs

Final **-es** is added to words ending with **-SH**, **-CH**, **-S**, **-Z**, and **-X**.

- wash → washes
- watch → watches
- class → classes
- buzz → buzzes
- box → boxes

For words ending in **-y**:

If **-y** is preceded by a vowel only **-s** is added,

- toy → toys; buy → buys

If **-y** is preceded by a consonant, the **-y** is changed to -i and **-es** is added.

- baby → babies; cry → cries