



Pronunciation: final “ed” and “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 → looked → look/*t/*
- Clap → clapped → clap/*t/*
- Miss → missed → miss/*t/*
- Watch → watched → watch/*t/*
- Finish → 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 → smelled → smell/*d/*
- Save → saved → save/*d/*
- Clean → cleaned → clean/*d/*
- Rob → robbed → rob/*d/*
- Play → 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 → decided → decide/*ed/*
- Need → needed → need/*ed/*
- Want → wanted → want/*ed/*
- Invite → 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 → seats → seat/**s/**
- Rope → 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