

Pronunciation of the -ed ending of regular verbs (past tense): there are 3 ways to pronounce *-ed* at the end of verbs

SOUND /T/: when a word ends in an **unvoiced** sound (your vocal chords do not vibrate):

Standard phonetic symbols	Unvoiced sounds	Example word
/s/	/S/	passed, placed
/ʃ/	/SH/	washed, wished
/tʃ/	/TCH/	watched, matched
/p/	/P/	stopped, trapped
/k/	/K/	locked, packed
/f/	/F/	laughed, coughed
/θ/	/TH/ (as in think)	frothed

SOUND /D/: when a word ends in a **voiced** sound (your vocal chords vibrate):

Standard phonetic symbols	Voiced sounds	Example word
/z/	/Z/	buzzed, amazed
/b/	/B/	grabbed, robbed
/g/	/G/	bugged, tagged
/v/	/V/	loved, craved
/ð/	/TH/ (as in though)	breathed, bathed
/l/	/L/	piled, failed
/m/	/M/	drummed, rammed
/n/	/N/	rained, pinned
/ŋ/	/NG/	pinged, wronged
/dʒ/	/DJ/	judged, raged
any vowel sound	any vowel sound	played, employed, tried, flowed, skied

SOUND /ID/: words ending in /t/ and /d/, but some adjectives also have this sound.

Standard phonetic symbols	sounds	Example word
/t/	/T/	waited, retreated
/d/	/D/	handed, ended

Adjectives ending in ed:

Adjectives with /ID/ sound
aged, beloved, blessed, crooked, cursed, dogged, learned, naked, one-legged, ragged, rugged, sacred, wicked, wretched

Some words ending in -ed have the 'usual' past-tense pronunciation when they are verbs, but an 'id' sound as adjectives: *blessed, beloved, learned, dogged, legged* (e.g. *three-legged*)

The following -ed words used **as adjectives** are pronounced with /Id/:

aged, beloved, blessed, crooked, cursed, dogged, learned, naked, one-legged, ragged, rugged, sacred, wicked, wretched

an aged man /Id/ - a blessed nuisance /Id/ - a dogged persistence /Id/ - a learned professor /Id/ - a wretched beggar /Id/

But when used as **real verbs** (past simple and past participle), the normal rules apply:

he aged quickly /d/ - he blessed me /t/ - they dogged him /d/ - he has learned well /d/

some **-ed** words always end in an 'id' sound because they are adjectives with no corresponding verbs: *naked, wretched, rugged, wicked, sacred,*

vocabulary

bug = hide microphones – annoy

ram = crash into – push into

ping = sound of bells

dogged = Stubbornly persevering; tenacious

ragged - being or dressed in clothes that are worn or torn;

rugged = Having a rough irregular surface

wretched = unfortunate, sorry, hapless, pitiful,

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

If a word ends in the letter 's' (e.g. plural noun or verb in the third person), there are three ways to pronounce it: /S/, /Z/ and /IZ/.

1) SOUND /S/:

if the word ends in the following sounds (**unvoiced**: your vocal chords do not vibrate):

Standard phonetic symbols	Unvoiced sounds	Example word
/p/	/P/	stops, ships
/t/	/T/	hits, pets
/k/	/K/	attacks, bricks
/f/	/F/	laughs, coughs
/θ/	/TH/ (as in think)	maths, moths, months

2) SOUND /Z/:

if the word ends in the following sounds (**voiced**: your vocal chords vibrate):

Standard phonetic symbols	Voiced sounds	Example word
/b/	/B/	grabs, robs
/d/	/D/	lids, rods
/g/	/G/	pigs, dogs
/v/	/V/	loves, leaves
/ð/	/TH/ (as in though)	breathes, lathes
/l/	/L/	hills, fails
/m/	/M/	comes, trams
/n/	/N/	earns, burns
/ŋ/	/NG/	songs, paintings
any vowel sound	any vowel sound	plays, employees, flees, goes, news

3) SOUND /IZ/:

The final /IZ/ sound is used if the word ends in the following sounds:

Standard phonetic symbols	sounds	Example word
/s/	/S/	buses, places
/z/	/Z/	chooses, sizes
/ʃ/	/SH/	washes, wishes
/tʃ/	/TCH/	watches, matches
/dʒ/	/DJ/	Judges, pages

The final /IZ/ syllable isn't usually stressed.

If a word ends in a consonant sound + 'y', the pronunciation of final 'y' is /I/ and in the plural it has the /IZ/ sound