

The pronunciation of the final “s” and “ed”

- 1. The pronunciation of the final “s”:** The pronunciation of the final S in plural words and verbs in the third person depend on the final consonant sound before that S.

This can be illustrated in the following table.

/s/	/z/	/ɪz/
/p/ helps	/b/ robs	/dʒ/ wages
/t/ directs	/d/ leads	/s/ enterprises
/k/ books	/g/ bags	/z/ buzzes
/f/ cliffs	/l/ controls	/ʃ/ accomplishes
/θ/ myths	/m/ claims	/tʃ/ watches
	/n/ plans	/c/ races
	/ŋ/ songs	/x/ fixes
	/v/ achieves	/ss/ misses
	/ð/ breathes	

- 2. The pronunciation of the final “ed”:** There are three different pronunciations of the –ed ending for regular past tense verbs. The pronunciation of the –ed ending depends on the final sound in the verb:

/t/	/d/	/d/
/p/ helped	/l/ controlled	/t/ motivated
/k/ looked	/n/ planned	/d/ needed
/f/ sniffed	/r/ offered	
/ss/ dismissed	/g/ managed	
/c/ faced	/v/ achieved	
/x/ fixed	/s/ used	
/ʃ/ accomplished	/z/ organized	
/ch/ watched	/b/ robbed	
	/m/ claimed	