Suffix -ed

Pronunciation

Usage

You may see the suffix '-ed' in the past tense of regular verbs, past participles and adjectives.

The pronunciation of words ending in -ed depends on the **final sound** (not spelling) of the base word. Depending on the type of sound we can pronounce '-ed' as /ɪd/ /t/ or /d/.

/t/ after unvoiced consonants	/d/ after vowels and voiced consonants	/ɪd/ after /t/ or /d/
walk /wɔːk/	**plug** /plʌg/	**want** /wɒnt/
work /wəːk/	**call** /kɔːl/	**wait** /weɪt/
help /hɛlp/	**name** /neɪm/	**vote** /vəʊt/
brief /briːf/	**damage** /ˈdamɪdʒ/	**rant** /rant/
laugh /lɑːf/	**rub** /rʌb/	**assist** /əˈsɪst/
crash /kraʃ/	**amaze** /əˈmeɪz/	**end** /ɛnd/
watch /wɒtʃ/	**claim** /kleɪm/	**need** /niːd/
kiss /kɪs/	**cry** /krʌɪ/	**mind** /mʌɪnd/
dance /dɑːns/	**glue** /gluː/	**demand** /dɪˈmɑːnd/
tax /taks/	**stay** /steɪ/	**sound** /saʊnd/

Voiced and unvoiced sounds

Voiced consonants are sounds that we make with the vocal cords vibrating alongside our mouth and breath.

Unvoiced consonants are made without the vocal cords vibrating.

If you're not sure if a sound is voiced or unvoiced you can check by putting your hand on your throat.

Practice activity

Take a look at the verbs below. First, try to write down how you'd pronounce them without the suffix '-ed'. Then decide which pronunciation of the suffix '-ed' you'd use.

1. answer
2. act
3. listen
4. play
5. cough
6. touch
7. exit
8. whistle
9. drop
10. edit
11. wash
12. miss
13. talk
14. defend
15. look

Answers

/t/ after unvoiced consonants	/d/ after vowels and voiced consonants	/ɪd/ after /t/ or /d/
cough /kɒf/ **drop** /drɒp/ **wash** /wɒʃ/ **miss** /mɪs/ **talk** /tɔːk/	**answer** /ˈɑːnsə/ **listen** /ˈlɪsn/ **play** /pleɪ/ **touch** /tʌtʃ/ **whistle** /ˈwɪsl/ **look** /lʊk/	**act** /akt/ **exit** /ˈɛgzɪt/ **edit** /ˈɛdɪt/ **defend** /dɪˈfɛnd/