

**Pronunciation of Final /-s/ and /-es/**

1. The /s/ at the end of a word preceded by a voiced sound is pronounced /z/.
2. The /s/ at the end of a word preceded by a voiceless sound is pronounced /s/.

**Voiced Sounds**

a, e, i, o, u	b	d	g	j	l	m
n	r	v	w	x	y	*z

**Voiceless Sounds**

c	f	h	k	p
q	*s	t	*ch	*sh

\* see below

**Try these words. Determine if the /s/ at the end of these words sounds like /z/ or /s/.**

1. downpours \_\_\_\_\_
2. reservations \_\_\_\_\_
3. payments \_\_\_\_\_
4. symptoms \_\_\_\_\_
5. heights \_\_\_\_\_
6. slayings \_\_\_\_\_
7. statistics \_\_\_\_\_
8. struggles \_\_\_\_\_
9. musicians \_\_\_\_\_
10. arrives \_\_\_\_\_
11. casinos \_\_\_\_\_
12. attends \_\_\_\_\_
13. pickups \_\_\_\_\_
14. incorporates \_\_\_\_\_
15. claims \_\_\_\_\_
16. please \_\_\_\_\_

**\* Additionally, when the /-es/ comes after the /s/, /z/, and the following combinations, /sh/, /ch/, /ss/, /ge/, and /dge/, the pronunciation of the last syllable is / z/. Try these examples:**

1. judges \_\_\_\_\_
2. stages \_\_\_\_\_
3. watches \_\_\_\_\_
4. classes \_\_\_\_\_
5. washes \_\_\_\_\_