

# Pronunciation of Final -S

## The Three Sounds of Final -S

The final -s in English has **THREE** different sounds:

### Sound 1: /s/ (voiceless - like a snake: ssss)

**Rule:** Use /s/ after voiceless sounds (p, t, k, f, th)

#### Examples:

Helps – Respects – Works – Stops – Accepts – Thinks – Laughs

#### Practice sentence:

A teacher helps students. She respects everyone.

### Sound 2: /z/ (voiced - like a bee: zzzz)

**Rule:** Use /z/ after voiced sounds (b, d, g, v, m, n, l, r) and vowels

#### Examples:

Learns – Studies – Follows – Obeys – Sees – Knows – Comes – Allows

#### Practice sentence:

A student learns ethics. He follows the rules.

### Sound 3: /ɪz/ (adds an extra syllable)

**Rule:** Use / Use /ɪz/ after sibilant sounds (s, z, ch, sh, j/dge, x)

This pronunciation **adds a syllable**.

#### Examples:

teaches (2 syllables: teach-es) - finishes (3 syllables: fin-ish-es)

judges (2 syllables: judg-es) - fixes (2 syllables: fix-es)

uses (2 syllables: us-es) - practices (3 syllables: prac-tic-es)

#### Practice sentence:

She teaches children. The teacher finishes at 3 o'clock

## Examples:

/s/ sound	/z/ sound	/ɪz/ sound
writes	believes	watches
	plays	discusses
	raises	pushes
	warns	catches
	explains	wishes
	needs	passes
	changes	
	reads	

**Note:** The /z/ sound is most common because it occurs after all voiced consonants and vowels.