

Present simple -s endings 1

The third person present simple form always ends in -s. We always say the final -s. There are three different ways to pronounce the final -s.

/ɪz/ as in *teaches* /z/ as in *plays* /s/ as in *chats*

- 1 Choose the correct -s ending. Complete the table with the verbs below.

teaches ■ does ■ eats ■ finishes ■ likes ■ goes
watches ■ loves ■ talks

/ɪz/	/z/	/s/
teaches	does	eats
watches	goes	likes
finishes	loves	talks

- 2 1 Listen and check your answers to exercise 1. Then listen and repeat.

- 3 2 Listen to the -s endings and tick (✓) the sound you hear.

	/ɪz/	/z/	/s/
1 gets			✓
2 has		✓	
3 feels		✓	
4 takes			✓
5 washes	✓		
6 uses	✓		
7 lives		✓	
8 walks			✓

Past simple -ed endings 1

-ed at the end of past simple forms is pronounced in three different ways:

/t/ as in *liked* /d/ as in *listened* /ɪd/ as in *waited*

- 1 Say the past simple form of the regular verbs below. Then write the verbs with the correct end sound in the table below.

chat ■ invent ■ like ■ listen ■ love ■ stop ■ visit ■ talk
change

/t/	/d/	/ɪd/
like	listen	chat
stop	love	invent
talk	change	visit

Past simple irregular verbs

- 5 31 Listen to the pairs of verbs. Tick (✓) the verbs that rhyme. Then listen and repeat.

1 rode	thought	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 wrote	wore	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 read	said	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5 left	grew	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 grew	knew	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6 made	stayed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Stress in two-syllable nouns

We usually pronounce two-syllable nouns with the stress on the first part of the word.

○ ○
insect

○ ○
raven

- 1 13 Say the two-syllable words below. Mark the stressed syllable. Then listen, check and repeat.

○ ○
1 mountain

6 cactus

2 chicken

7 tiger

3 eagle

8 rabbit

4 desert

9 flower

5 monkey

10 pigeon

We pronounce a few words with the stress on the second syllable.

○ ○
giraffe

○ ○
hotel

Vowel sounds: /i:/ /ɪ/ /æ/ /ɑ:/ /ɒ/ /ə/

- 2 14 Listen to the six vowel sounds. Then listen and repeat.

1 /i:/ me, see, three 4 /ɑ:/ garden, dance, can't
2 /ɪ/ big, dig, hit 5 /ɒ/ clock, dog, shop
3 /æ/ rabbit, man, bank 6 /ə/ colour, never, centre

- 3 15 Listen to the words and write the vowel sound. Use /i:/, /ɪ/, /æ/, /ɑ:/, /ɒ/, /ə/.

1 chicken /ɪ/ 6 cactus /æ/ 7 rock /ɒ/ 8 lizard /ɪ/ 9 dog /ɒ/ 10 spider /ə/

- 4 16 Listen and check your answers to exercise 3.

/ə/ is a very important vowel sound in English. It's the vowel sound that we use the most. We use it in weak or unstressed syllables.

spider tiger

- 5 17 Listen to the words and underline the syllable where you hear /ə/.

1 flower 5 tortoise 9 polar bear
2 cactus 6 lizard 10 kangaroo
3 butterfly 7 desert
4 water 8 hamster

- 6 17 Say the words in exercise 5 again and mark the stress. Then listen and check.

○ ○
flower

Vowel sounds and diphthongs

In many English words, the spelling is different from the pronunciation. The same letters can sometimes represent different sounds, for example: *fun*, *fur*, *put*, *rude*. In many cases, different letters are used to represent the same sound, for example: *let*, *heavy*, *friend*, *bury*, *said*. There are only twenty-six letters in the alphabet, but they represent over forty-four different sounds. Spoken English has a very high number of vowel sounds. There are twelve single vowels and eight diphthongs.

1 74 Listen to the sounds. What is the difference between the sounds in A and the sounds in B?

A /ɪ/ /ʊ/ /ə/ /ʌ/ /ɒ/ /e/ /æ/

B /i:/ /u:/ /ɜ:/ /ɑ:/ /ɔ:/

2 75 Listen to the sounds. Write the example words you hear. Then listen again and repeat.

1 /ɪ/	<u>bin</u>	7 /ɑ:/	<u>bath</u>
2 /i:/	<u>feel</u>	8 /ʌ/	<u>sun</u>
3 /ɜ:/	<u>first</u>	9 /ɔ:/	<u>saw</u>
4 /ə/	<u>water</u>	10 /ɒ/	<u>dog</u>
5 /u:/	<u>pool</u>	11 /e/	<u>pen</u>
6 /ʊ/	<u>book</u>	12 /æ/	<u>eat</u>

3 76 Match the words in each pair to the correct pronunciation. Then listen and repeat.

1 hat <u>b</u>	a /hɑ:t/	4 fit <u>b</u>	a /fi:t/
heart <u>a</u>	b /hæt/	feet <u>a</u>	b /fi:t/
2 foot <u>a</u>	a /fʊt/	5 head <u>a</u>	a /hed/
food <u>b</u>	b /fu:d/	heard <u>b</u>	b /hɜ:d/
3 short <u>b</u>	a /ʃɔ:t/	6 ugly <u>b</u>	a /'ʌgeɪn/
shot <u>a</u>	b /ʃɒ:t/	again <u>a</u>	b /'ʌgli/

4 77 A diphthong is a combination of two vowel sounds pronounced together. Listen and choose the diphthong that matches the sound of the underlined letters.

1 overweight	<u>/eɪ/</u>	/aɪ/
2 emotional	/aʊ/	<u>/əʊ/</u>
3 here	<u>/ɪə/</u>	/eə/
4 noisy	<u>/ɔɪ/</u>	/əʊ/
5 blonde-haired	/ɪə/	<u>/eə/</u>
6 foreground	<u>/aʊ/</u>	/əʊ/
7 stylish	/eɪ/	<u>/aɪ/</u>
8 tour	/əʊ/	<u>/uə/</u>

5 78 Choose the odd one out. Then listen and repeat.

1 /eɪ/	<u>have</u>	shave	brave
2 /ʌ/	blood	touch	<u>wool</u>
3 /ɜ:/	girl	turn	<u>worn</u>
4 /aɪ/	<u>eight</u>	sight	shy
5 /aʊ/	brown	<u>show</u>	mouth
6 /i:/	<u>great</u>	mean	teeth
7 /ɒ/	<u>front</u>	top	want
8 /əʊ/	<u>coat</u>	town	snow

Diphthongs and rhyming words

A diphthong is a combination of two vowel sounds pronounced together, for example, /eɪ/ as in *play* /pleɪ/ and /əʊ/ as in *cold* /kəʊld/.

The first vowel sound is always longer than the second. There are eight diphthongs in English, but one of them is hardly ever used. Many native speakers use /ɔ:/ instead of /ʊə/. For example, *poor* is usually pronounced /pɔ:/ instead of /pʊə/.

1 60 Study the sound symbols. Listen and write the example word for each diphthong. Then listen again and repeat.

1 /eɪ/	<u>pain</u>	5 /eə/	<u>pear</u>
2 /aɪ/	<u>light</u>	6 /ʊə/	<u>poor</u>
3 /ɔɪ/	<u>point</u>	7 /əʊ/	<u>emotional</u>
4 /ɪə/	<u>fear</u>	8 /aʊ/	<u>found</u>

2 Read words 1-7 aloud and write the correct diphthong for each word. Then match words 1-7 to a rhyming word a-g.

1 /aʊ/ crowd	<u>e</u>	a grey
2 /əʊ/ phone	<u>f</u>	b hair
3 /aɪ/ try	<u>d</u>	c here
4 /eɪ/ day	<u>a</u>	d high
5 /ɔɪ/ noise	<u>g</u>	e loud
6 /eə/ wear	<u>b</u>	f shown
7 /ɪə/ year	<u>c</u>	g toys