

Voiced Consonants vs. Voiceless Consonants

A **voiced** consonant (or sound) means that it uses the vocal cords and they produce a vibration or humming sound in the throat when they are said. Put your finger on your throat and then pronounce the letter L. You will notice a slight vibration in your neck / throat. That is because it is a **voiced** sound.

A **voiceless** sound (sometimes called an unvoiced sound) is when there is no vibration in your throat and the sound comes from the mouth area. Pronounce the letter P. You will notice how it comes from your mouth (in fact near your lips at the front of your mouth). The P sound doesn't come from your throat.

Try this with the other letters and you will "feel" the difference between a voiced and a voiceless consonant (or sound).

Now we know the difference between voiced and voiceless sounds we can look at the following rules for the correct pronunciation of ED in English:

1. The /d/ sound

If the last letter of the words ends in a **voiced** consonant (or sound), then the ED is pronounced like a D (without creating another syllable)

- played (sounds like "playd")
- closed (the S sounds like a vibrating Z so the word would sound like "clozd")
- opened
- lived

2. The /t/ sound

If the last consonant of the word is **voiceless**, then the ED is pronounced as a T. Be careful not to create an extra syllable or "id" sound.

- talked (sounds like "talkt")
- kissed (the S sound comes from the front of mouth so it would sound like "kisst")
- parked
- helped

NOTE: As an example, with the word "helped", if you say "help-id" as a two syllable word, then it is very likely that people will NOT understand the word or what you are saying. (It is pronounced like "helpt")

3. The /id/ sound

If the last letter of the word is spelled with D or T, the ED is pronounced as a separate syllable with an /id/ sound (it rhymes with *kid* and *lid*).

- wanted (sounds like "want-id")
- waited
- needed
- folded

Put the following past tense verbs under the correct heading based on the sound of the -ed ending. There are 8 of each type, 24 total.

hunted / jumped / measured / tripped / learned / opened / picked / watched / painted / fainted / owed / disappointed / paused / managed / helped / looked / pretended / decided / listened / wasted / pointed / marked / hooked / lied

/d/

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

/t/

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

/id/

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____