**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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a, e, i, o, u</th>
<th>b</th>
<th>d</th>
<th>g</th>
<th>j</th>
<th>l</th>
<th>m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>*z</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Voiceless Sounds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>c</th>
<th>f</th>
<th>h</th>
<th>k</th>
<th>p</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>q</td>
<td>*s</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>*ch</td>
<td>*sh</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*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

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