

English Pronunciation: Final -s / -es Sounds

Level A1 · Lesson 2

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 45

Language Focus: Three Sounds for -s / -es

We add **-s** or **-es** to nouns (to make plurals) and to verbs (with he/she/it). But this ending is not always pronounced the same way — there are **three different sounds**.

Sound	When we use it	Examples
/s/	After quiet sounds: p, t, k, f	cats, works, laughs
/z/	After most other sounds (b, d, g, l, m, n, r, v, vowels)	dogs, runs, plays
/ɪz/	After s, z, sh, ch, x — adds an extra syllable	buses, watches, boxes

Tip: The /ɪz/ sound is the easiest to hear because the word gets one syllable longer: "watch" (1 syllable) → "watches" (2 syllables).

Exercise 1: True or False (8 points)

1. The word "cats" ends with the /s/ sound. True / False
2. The word "dogs" ends with the /s/ sound. True / False
3. The word "buses" has an extra syllable. True / False
4. The word "runs" ends with the /iz/ sound. True / False
5. The word "watches" ends with the /s/ sound. True / False
6. The word "laughs" ends with the /s/ sound. True / False
7. The word "boxes" has an extra syllable. True / False
8. The word "plays" ends with the /s/ sound. True / False

Exercise 2: Multiple Choice (8 points)

Circle the correct sound for the -s/-es ending in each word.

1. **cats** a) /z/ b) /s/ c) /iz/
2. **dogs** a) /s/ b) /iz/ c) /z/
3. **buses** a) /iz/ b) /s/ c) /z/
4. **works** a) /z/ b) /s/ c) /iz/
5. **plays** a) /iz/ b) /z/ c) /s/
6. **watches** a) /s/ b) /z/ c) /iz/
7. **boxes** a) /z/ b) /iz/ c) /s/
8. **sees** a) /s/ b) /iz/ c) /z/

Exercise 3: Matching (9 points)

Say each word aloud. Write **a**, **b**, or **c** next to each word to show its sound.

a) /s/ **b)** /z/ **c)** /iz/ (extra syllable)

Word	Sound (a, b, or c)
1. laughs	_____
2. runs	_____
3. wishes	_____
4. walks	_____
5. opens	_____
6. dances	_____
7. likes	_____
8. loves	_____
9. kisses	_____

Exercise 4: Word Sort (12 points)

Write each word in the correct box: cat, works, hopes, stops, dogs, plays, boys, comes, buses, watches, dishes, dances.

/s/	/z/	/iz/

Exercise 5: Gap Fill (8 points)

Write /s/, /z/, or /iz/ to show the sound the ending makes.

1. "**stop**" + -s/-es → _____ sound
2. "**like**" + -s/-es → _____ sound
3. "**open**" + -s/-es → _____ sound
4. "**love**" + -s/-es → _____ sound
5. "**watch**" + -s/-es → _____ sound
6. "**kiss**" + -s/-es → _____ sound
7. "**walk**" + -s/-es → _____ sound
8. "**see**" + -s/-es → _____ sound

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Exercise 1: True or False — Answers

1. The word "cats" ends with the /s/ sound. — **True**
2. The word "dogs" ends with the /s/ sound. — **False**
3. The word "buses" has an extra syllable. — **True**
4. The word "runs" ends with the /iz/ sound. — **False**
5. The word "watches" ends with the /s/ sound. — **False**
6. The word "laughs" ends with the /s/ sound. — **True**
7. The word "boxes" has an extra syllable. — **True**
8. The word "plays" ends with the /s/ sound. — **False**

Exercise 2: Multiple Choice — Answers

1. **cats** — correct answer: **b) /s/**
2. **dogs** — correct answer: **c) /z/**
3. **buses** — correct answer: **a) /iz/**
4. **works** — correct answer: **b) /s/**
5. **plays** — correct answer: **b) /z/**
6. **watches** — correct answer: **c) /iz/**
7. **boxes** — correct answer: **b) /iz/**
8. **sees** — correct answer: **c) /z/**

Exercise 3: Matching — Answers

- laughs — **a) /s/**
- walks — **a) /s/**
- likes — **a) /s/**
- runs — **b) /z/**
- opens — **b) /z/**

loves — **b) /z/**

wishes — **c) /iz/ (extra syllable)**

dances — **c) /iz/ (extra syllable)**

kisses — **c) /iz/ (extra syllable)**

Exercise 4: Word Sort — Answers

/s/: cat, works, hopes, stops

/z/: dogs, plays, boys, comes

/iz/ (extra syllable): buses, watches, dishes, dances

Exercise 5: Gap Fill — Answers

1. stop — **/s/**

2. like — **/s/**

3. open — **/z/**

4. love — **/z/**

5. watch — **/iz/ (extra syllable)**

6. kiss — **/iz/ (extra syllable)**

7. walk — **/s/**

8. see — **/z/**