

English Pronunciation: Past Tense -ed Sounds

Level A2 · Lesson 1

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 45

Language Focus: Three Sounds for -ed

We add **-ed** to regular verbs to make the past tense. Like the -s/-es ending, this is **not always pronounced the same way** — there are three different sounds.

Sound	When we use it	Examples
/t/	After quiet sounds: p, k, s, sh, ch, f, x	walked, watched, laughed
/d/	After most other sounds (b, g, l, m, n, r, v, z, vowels)	played, opened, cleaned
/ɪd/	After t or d sounds — adds an extra syllable	wanted, needed, started

Tip: If the base verb already ends in a "t" or "d" sound (want, need, start, decide), English adds a whole extra syllable: "want" (1 syllable) → "wanted" (2 syllables).

Remember: this rule is about **sound**, not spelling. "Watch" ends in the sound /ch/ (quiet), so "watched" = /t/. "Live" ends in the sound /v/ (voiced), so "lived" = /d/.

Exercise 1: True or False (8 points)

1. "walked" ends with the /t/ sound. True / False
2. "played" ends with the /t/ sound. True / False
3. "wanted" has an extra syllable. True / False
4. "cleaned" ends with the /id/ sound. True / False
5. "watched" ends with the /d/ sound. True / False
6. "laughed" ends with the /t/ sound. True / False
7. "started" has an extra syllable. True / False
8. "loved" ends with the /t/ sound. True / False

Exercise 2: Multiple Choice (8 points)

Circle the correct sound for the -ed ending in each word.

1. **walked** a) /d/ b) /t/ c) /id/
2. **played** a) /t/ b) /id/ c) /d/
3. **wanted** a) /id/ b) /t/ c) /d/
4. **watched** a) /d/ b) /t/ c) /id/
5. **opened** a) /id/ b) /d/ c) /t/
6. **needed** a) /t/ b) /d/ c) /id/
7. **kissed** a) /d/ b) /id/ c) /t/
8. **called** a) /t/ b) /id/ c) /d/

Exercise 3: Matching (9 points)

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

a) /t/ **b)** /d/ **c)** /id/ (extra syllable)

Word	Sound (a, b, or c)
1. helped	_____
2. cleaned	_____
3. decided	_____
4. worked	_____
5. arrived	_____
6. waited	_____
7. stopped	_____
8. listened	_____
9. added	_____

Exercise 4: Word Sort (12 points)

Write each word in the correct box: washed, laughed, kissed, walked, played, opened, loved, called, wanted, needed, started, visited.

/t/	/d/	/id/

Exercise 5: Gap Fill (8 points)

Write /t/, /d/, or /id/ to show the sound the ending makes.

1. "wash" + -ed → _____ sound
2. "love" + -ed → _____ sound
3. "visit" + -ed → _____ sound
4. "talk" + -ed → _____ sound
5. "add" + -ed → _____ sound
6. "help" + -ed → _____ sound
7. "clean" + -ed → _____ sound
8. "arrive" + -ed → _____ sound

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Exercise 1: True or False — Answers

1. "walked" ends with the /t/ sound. — **True**
2. "played" ends with the /t/ sound. — **False**
3. "wanted" has an extra syllable. — **True**
4. "cleaned" ends with the /id/ sound. — **False**
5. "watched" ends with the /d/ sound. — **False**
6. "laughed" ends with the /t/ sound. — **True**
7. "started" has an extra syllable. — **True**
8. "loved" ends with the /t/ sound. — **False**

Exercise 2: Multiple Choice — Answers

1. **walked** — correct answer: **b) /t/**
2. **played** — correct answer: **c) /d/**
3. **wanted** — correct answer: **a) /id/**
4. **watched** — correct answer: **b) /t/**
5. **opened** — correct answer: **b) /d/**
6. **needed** — correct answer: **c) /id/**
7. **kissed** — correct answer: **c) /t/**
8. **called** — correct answer: **c) /d/**

Exercise 3: Matching — Answers

helped — **a) /t/**

worked — **a) /t/**

stopped — **a) /t/**

cleaned — **b) /d/**

arrived — **b) /d/**

listened — **b) /d/**

decided — **c) /id/ (extra syllable)**

waited — **c) /id/ (extra syllable)**

added — **c) /id/ (extra syllable)**

Exercise 4: Word Sort — Answers

/t/: washed, laughed, kissed, walked

/d/: played, opened, loved, called

/id/ (extra syllable): wanted, needed, started, visited

Exercise 5: Gap Fill — Answers

1. wash — **/t/**

2. love — **/d/**

3. visit — **/id/ (extra syllable)**

4. talk — **/t/**

5. add — **/id/ (extra syllable)**

6. help — **/t/**

7. clean — **/d/**

8. arrive — **/d/**