

Speak English Group's Lesson 3  
Pronunciation Review & Common Mistakes  
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**3A**

**Contractions – Common Mistakes**

**Can / Can't**

Can and can't are popular words that have opposite meanings. When these words are said fast, incorrect pronunciation can cause confusion and communication problems. The last sound of each word is extremely important and should have very clear pronunciation.

**Can** – the 'n' sound is extended and slowly dies at the end.

**Can't** – The 'n' is fast and blends with the 't'. The 't' is clear with extra stress but is cut off and quickly ends.

we'd	I'd	I'll
wouldn't	they'll	they'd
Should've	he's	shouldn't
she's	I'm	she'll
they're	we've	you've

**3B****Past Tense Verbs (ending in -ed)**

If a verb ends with an unvoiced sound (except [t]), the past tense ending '-ed' is pronounced with a [t] sound.

mopped  
walked  
reached  
laughed  
missed

If a verb ends with a voiced sound (except [d]), the past tense ending '-ed' is pronounced with a [d] sound.

begged  
rained  
lived  
called  
referred

If a verb ends with a [t] or [d] sound, the past tense ending '-ed' is pronounced with a [ed] or [id] sound.

visited  
ended  
adopted  
attended  
imported

**3C****Practice**

**Practice the sentences.**

1. The officials judged the results.  
The officials judge the results.
  
2. The bees buzzed around the honey.  
The bees buzz around the honey.
  
3. We pretend to like mother's cooking.  
We pretended to like mother's cooking.
  
4. Rescuers search for missing people.  
Rescuers searched for missing people.
  
5. Scientist tested the new technology.  
Scientist test the new technology.
  
6. I pass all my math tests.  
I passed all my math tests.
  
7. I pack my luggage for all my trips.  
I packed my luggage for all my trips.
  
8. We avoid traffic.  
We avoided traffic.

9. We borrowed money for our cars.  
We borrow money for our cars.
10. People helped out after disasters  
People help out after a disaster.
11. Peppers added flavor to the food.  
Peppers add flavor to the food.
12. We visit grandmother's house.  
We visited grandmother's house
13. We laughed at his jokes.  
We laugh at his jokes.
14. We miss our mother.  
We missed our mother.
15. We accept responsibility.  
We accepted responsibility.
16. We live in the city.  
We lived in the city.

**3D**

## Words ending in 's, es, s'

### The four reasons for adding 's, es, or s':

- plural noun (boys)
- contraction (she's)
- conjugate a verb (walks)
- possession (student's)

The 's, es, s' endings follow the same pronunciation rules. These endings have three possible pronunciations:

- [ S ] sound (cats)
- [ Z ] sound (dogs)
- [ IZ ] sound (teaches)



## Rule # 1 The endings ('s, es, or s') have the sound [ Z ] ...

1. when the last sound before the ending is [ d ] (sounds)
2. when the last sound before the ending is [ l ] (calls)
3. when the last sound before the ending is [ n ] (rains)
4. when the last sound before the ending is [ m ] (dreams)
5. when the last sound before the ending is [ v ] (lives)
6. when the last sound before the ending is [ g ] (legs)
7. when the last sound before the ending is [ b ] (tubs)
8. when the last sound before the ending is a voiced 'th' [ð] (clothes)
9. when the last sound before the ending is [ r ] (bears)
10. when the last sound before the ending is 'ng' [ŋ] (sings)

## Rule # 2 The endings ('s, es, or s') have the sound [ S ] ...

1. when the last sound before the ending is [ t ] (sits)
2. when the last sound before the ending is [ k ] (cooks)
3. when the last sound before the ending is [ f ] (coughs)
4. when the last sound before the ending is [θ] (baths)
5. when the last sound before the ending is [ p ] (helps)

## Rule #3 The endings ('s, es, or s') have the sound [ IZ ] ...

1. when the last sound before the ending is [ z ] (quizzes)
2. when the last sound before the ending is [ s ] (buses)
3. when the last sound before the ending is [ʒ] (ages)
4. when the last sound before the ending is [dʒ] (bridges)
5. when the last sound before the ending is [ch] (teaches)
6. when the last sound before the ending is [sh] (dishes)

## 3E

### Words Ending in 'ce, se, ze'

Remember: [s] sound is unvoiced / [z] sound is voiced.

'ce' at the end of a word will normally have the [s] sound.

**price, dance, place. twice**

'ze' at the end of a word will normally have the [z] sound.

**prize, freeze, minimize, size**

'se' at the end of a word will have the [s] or [z] sound.

**[s] – base, chase, false, horse**

**[z] – rise, phrase, advise, wise**

Practice saying the following sentences.

Record yourself and listen for the ending sound.

**1. The size of the prize is twice the price, but is wise to advise to dance in a place.**

**2. I advise to chase the horse to a wise place for twice prize size.**

**3F**

**Words ending in 'ing'**



**Practice saying the following:**

<b>bring</b>	<b>everything</b>	<b>sing</b>
<b>jingle</b>	<b>kingdom</b>	<b>earring</b>
<b>wing</b>	<b>linguistics</b>	<b>ping</b>

## Exercise # 3-1

Record yourself saying the following and then listen for the differences.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. I can go to the store.<br>I can't go to the store.           | 6. I walk to work.<br>I walked to work.                                    |
| 2. I did exercise today.<br>I didn't exercise today.            | 7. I must clean the dish.<br>I must clean the dishes.                      |
| 3. We learned English fast.<br>We learn English fast            | 8. The bear likes honey.<br>The bears like honey.                          |
| 4. I attend English class.<br>I attended English class.         | 9. speak / speaking<br>bring / bringing<br>ring / ringing<br>care / caring |
| 5. Bees buzz around the honey.<br>Bees buzzed around the honey. |  |

**For additional resources and updated information:**

[www.webactiveenglish.com](http://www.webactiveenglish.com)

[www.speakenglishgroup.com](http://www.speakenglishgroup.com)

[www.speakenglishbusiness.com](http://www.speakenglishbusiness.com)

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