

## MINIMAL PAIRS WITH [s] and [z]

Listen and repeat each pair of words or sentences, Remember, [z] is a voiced sound. Your vocal cords should vibrate. And be sure to prolong any vowel BEFORE the sound

|    | [s]                    | [z]                    |
|----|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1  | Sue                    | zoo                    |
| 2  | face                   | phase                  |
| 3  | race                   | raise                  |
| 4  | bus                    | buzz                   |
| 5  | Ice                    | eyes                   |
| 6  | We saw the place.      | We saw the plays.      |
| 7  | They made peace.       | They made peas.        |
| 8  | The price was \$100.   | The prize was \$100.   |
| 9  | Did you see the racer? | Did you see the razor? |
| 10 | He lost the race.      | He lost the raise.     |

Listen and repeat:

|                                                                      |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 1. <sup>[s]</sup> Sue went to the <sup>[z]</sup> zoo.                |  |
| 2. Put <sup>[s]</sup> ice on your <sup>[z]</sup> eyes.               |  |
| 3. My <sup>[s]</sup> niece hurt her <sup>[z]</sup> knees.            |  |
| 4. The <sup>[z]</sup> president set a <sup>[s]</sup> precedent.      |  |
| 5. The baby will <sup>[z]</sup> lose his <sup>[s]</sup> loose tooth. |  |

### [s] vs. [z] in Noun / Verb Homographs

Several nouns and verbs are the same in the written form. However, we can distinguish between these word pairs in their spoken form. The letter s in the noun form is usually pronounced [s]; in the verb form, it is usually pronounced [z].

**Listen and repeat. Be sure to add "voice" to the letter s when saying the verbs.**

| Nouns                | Verbs               |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| excuse (a reason)    | excuse (to forgive) |
| house (residence)    | house (to shelter)  |
| use (purpose)        | use (utilize)       |
| abuse (mistreatment) | abuse (injure)      |

**Listen and repeat. Pay attention to the boldfaced words. Be sure to distinguish between the voiceless [s] in the nouns and the voiced [z] in the verbs.**

|                                                                      |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Please <sup>[z]</sup> excuse <sup>[z]</sup> me.                   | 1. |
| 2. He <sup>[z]</sup> has a good <sup>[s]</sup> excuse.               | 2. |
| 3. May I <sup>[z]</sup> use your car?                                | 3. |
| 4. The object <sup>[z]</sup> has no <sup>[s]</sup> use.              | 4. |
| 5. The <sup>[z]</sup> museum will <sup>[z]</sup> house the painting. | 5. |
| 6. We bought a new <sup>[s]</sup> house.                             | 6. |
| 7. Child <sup>[s]</sup> abuse is a terrible thing.                   | 7. |
| 8. Please <sup>[z]</sup> don't <sup>[z]</sup> abuse me.              | 8. |

Listen. Two of the words in each group will be the same; one will be different. Select the number of the word that is different

EXAMPLE: You hear

|       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|
| prize | price | price |
| 1     | 2     | 3     |

|     |   |   |   |
|-----|---|---|---|
| 1.  | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 2.  | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 3.  | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 4.  | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 5.  | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 6.  | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 7.  | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 8.  | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 9.  | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 10. | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Listen and circle the word used to complete each sentence.

EXAMPLE

The sweater was (fussy/fuzzy)

|     |                                                |
|-----|------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | We finally won the ( <b>race/ raise</b> ).     |
| 2.  | I know that ( <b>face/ phase</b> ).            |
| 3.  | He gave me a good ( <b>price/ prize</b> ).     |
| 4.  | Look at her small ( <b>niece/ knees</b> ).     |
| 5.  | We must accept the ( <b>loss/ laws</b> ).      |
| 6.  | The sheep have ( <b>fleece/ fleas</b> ).       |
| 7.  | Did you hear the ( <b>bus/ buzz</b> )?         |
| 8.  | His dog has a large ( <b>muscle/ muzzle</b> ). |
| 9.  | How much is the ( <b>sink/ zinc</b> )?         |
| 10. | I can identify the ( <b>spice/ spies</b> ).    |