

PRONUNCIATION – how to pronounce final -s

RULES

1. Words ending in the following sounds, add **-es** and pronounce **one** more syllable: /iz/

Examples:

/s/	⇒	pass - passes, box - boxes, dance - dances
/z/	⇒	buzz - buzzes, realize - realizes, advise - advises
/tʃ/	⇒	church - churches, match - matches
/dʒ/	⇒	fridge - fridges, age - ages, manage - manages

2. Words ending in the following sounds, add **-s**, and pronounce soft /s/

Examples:

/p/	⇒	stop - stops, shop - shops
/t/	⇒	start - starts, put - puts
/k/	⇒	ask - asks, work - works
/θ/	⇒	myth - myths, bath - baths
/f/	⇒	laugh - laughs, cough - coughs

3. Words ending in **consonant + y**: replace **y** with **-ies**, pronounce voiced **/z/**

Examples: ➡ cry - cries, try - tries

4. Words ending in a **vowel**: add **-s or -es**, pronounce **/z/**

Examples: ⇒ follow - follows, go - goes,
 piano - pianos, potato - potatoes.

5. All other words: add **-s**, pronounce voiced **/z/**

Examples: $\Rightarrow$ plays, walls, birds, dogs,...

EXERCISE 1:

- a) Add -s or -es to these verbs

change	catch	press	manage	process
hear	speak	see	travel	start
watch	force	relax	push	binge

- b) Write the correct pronunciation.

Example:

speaks	s	/ɪz/	/s/	/z/
cases		/ɪz/	/s/	/z/
writes		/ɪz/	/s/	/z/
bosses		/ɪz/	/s/	/z/
houses		/ɪz/	/s/	/z/
glasses		/ɪz/	/s/	/z/
fixes		/ɪz/	/s/	/z/
kilos		/ɪz/	/s/	/z/
flies		/ɪz/	/s/	/z/
plays		/ɪz/	/s/	/z/