

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. ^[s] Sue went to the ^[z] zoo.	
2. Put ^[s] ice on your ^[z] eyes.	
3. My ^[s] niece hurt her ^[z] knees.	
4. The ^[z] president set a ^[s] precedent.	
5. The baby will ^[z] lose his ^[s] 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 ^[z] excuse ^[z] me.	1.
2. He ^[z] has a good ^[s] excuse.	2.
3. May I ^[z] use your car?	3.
4. The object ^[z] has no ^[s] use.	4.
5. The ^[z] museum will ^[z] house the painting.	5.
6. We bought a new ^[s] house.	6.
7. Child ^[s] abuse is a terrible thing.	7.
8. Please ^[z] don't ^[z] 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 (race/ raise).
2.	I know that (face/ phase).
3.	He gave me a good (price/ prize).
4.	Look at her small (niece/ knees).
5.	We must accept the (loss/ laws).
6.	The sheep have (fleece/ fleas).
7.	Did you hear the (bus/ buzz)?
8.	His dog has a large (muscle/ muzzle).
9.	How much is the (sink/ zinc)?
10.	I can identify the (spice/ spies).