

### 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:

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

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

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> ).