## 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. **Sue** went to the **zoo**. | |
| 2. Put **ice** on your **eyes**. | |
| 3. My **niece** hurt her **knees**. | |
| 4. The **president** set a **precedent**. | |
| 5. The baby will **lose** his **loose** tooth. | |

LIVEWORKSHEETS

**[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 [sl in the nouns and the voiced [z] in the verbs.**

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS

**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).** |

LIVEWORKSHEETS