Practicing the Past Tense -ED

The -ed ending in regular past tense verbs and adjectives has three sounds: **/ɪd/** (an extra syllable / like *id* in *kid*), **/t/** (no extra syllable / crisp *t* sound), and **/d/** (no extra syllable / soft *d* sound). The sound depends on the final letter and vibration of the base verb.

The /ɪd/ Sound (Extra Syllable)

- Use this when the base verb ends with a **/t/** or **/d/** sound.
- Examples**:**
  - want → want-**ed** /wɒn tɪd/
  - need → need-**ed** /niːd ɪd/
  - visit → visit-**ed** /vɪz ɪ tɪd/

OJO: Notice that the /pronunciation/ uses the phonetic alphabet that we studied in class.

The /t/ Sound (No Extra Syllable)

- Use this when the base verb ends in a **voiceless consonant** (sounds made in the mouth with no vocal cord vibration, like *p, k, s, ch, sh, f*).
- Examples**:**
  - help → help**ed** /helpt/
  - look → look**ed** /lʊkt/
  - watch → watch**ed** /wɒtʃt/

The /d/ Sound (No Extra Syllable)

- Use this when the base verb ends in a **voiced consonant** (vocal cords vibrate, like *b, g, v, z, m, n, l*) or a **vowel sound**.
- Examples**:**
  - play → play**ed** /pleɪd/
  - call → call**ed** /kɔːld/
  - love → lov**ed** /lʌvd/

OJO: It is not the final letter of the base verb but the final sound that determines the pronunciation of the past tense ending (-ED).

The rules are above. Now practice pronouncing the -ED ending until the correct form becomes habit. The exercise on the following page can help you. Listen to the pronunciation and repeat what you hear.

Optional: As an additional exercise, practice writing the phonetic transcription of the words. A chart with the phonetic alphabet can be found on the last page, and an example has been provided in each column.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

/id/	/t/	/d/
↓ **base verb ending in /t/**	↓ **base verb ending in /p/**	↓ **base verb ending in vowel**
wanted /ˈwɒn tɪd/	clapped /klæpt/	cried /kraɪd/
planted	stopped	followed
acted	helped	played
visited	hoped	worried
started	jumped	tried
shouted	↓ **base verb ending in /k/**	↓ **verb ending in /n/ or /m/**
counted	cooked /kʊkt/	cleaned /kliːnd/
painted	kicked	explained
invented	looked	opened
hated	liked	formed
expected	talked	blamed
floated	worked	screamed
created	↓ **base verb ending in /s/**	↓ **base verb ending in /l/**
rented	dressed /drɛst/	called /kɔːld/
located	danced	killed
↓ **base verb ending in /d/**	fixed	pulled
divided /dɪˈvaɪ dɪd/	kissed	travelled
exploded	relaxed	felled
folded	↓ **base verb ending in /ʃ/**	↓ **base verb ending in /z/**
ended	washed /wɒʃt/	used /juːzd/
needed	brushed	closed
reminded	crashed	supposed
decided	finished	↓ **base verb ending in /r/**
included	pushed	cleared /klɪəd/
added	wished	shared
demanded	↓ **base verb ending in /ʧ/**	↓ **base verb ending in /v/**
guided	touched /tʌʧt/	loved /lʌvd/
loaded	matched	moved
offended	watched	saved
recorded	↓ **base verb ending in /f/**	↓ **base verb ending in /ʤ/**
landed	laughed /lɑːft/	changed /ʧeɪnʤd/
guarded	sniffed	damaged

* British pronunciation is presented

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Phonemic Chart

voiced

unvoiced

	monophthongs				diphthongs			
VOWELS	iː sheep	ɪ ship	ʊ good	uː shoot	ɪə here	eɪ wait		
	e bed	ə teacher	ɜː bird	ɔː door	ʊə tourist	ɔɪ boy	əʊ show	
	æ cat	ʌ up	ɑː far	ɒ on	eə hair	aɪ my	aʊ cow	
CONSONANTS	p pea	b boat	t tea	d dog	ʧ cheese	ʤ June	k car	g go
	f fly	v video	θ think	ð this	s see	z zoo	ʃ shall	ʒ television
	m man	n now	ŋ sing	h hat	l love	r red	w wet	j yes

LIVEWORKSHEETS