

Spelling and phonetics – final -s – 2

Revise these rules (you can copy them in your notebook):

1. Words ending in /s/, /z/, /ʃ/, /ʒ/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/:
add -es, pronounce one more syllable: /ɪz/
Examples: passes, boxes, buzzes, fishes, mirages, churches, fridges.
2. Words ending in /p/, /t/, /k/, /θ/, /f/:
add -s, pronounce voiceless /s/
Examples: stops, starts, asks, myths, laughs
3. Words ending in **consonant + y**: replace **y** with -ies, pronounce voiced /z/
Examples: cries.
4. Words ending in a **vowel**: add -s or -es, pronounce /z/
Examples: follows, goes, pianos, potatoes.
5. All other words: add -s, pronounce voiced /z/
Examples: plays, walls, birds, dogs, games...

Practice

Add -s or -es to these words and choose the correct pronunciation:

/z/**/s/****/ɪz/**

car	_____	/kɑ:z/	/kɑ:s/	/'kɑ:rɪz/
bird	_____	/bɜ:dz/	/bɜ:ds/	/'bɜ:dɪz/
dish	_____	/dɪʃz/	/dɪʃs/	/'dɪʃɪz/
bump	_____	/bʌmpz/	/bʌmps/	/'bʌmpɪz/
term	_____	/tɜ:mz/	/tɜ:ms/	/tɜ:m'ɪz/
teach	_____	/ti:tʃz/	/ti:tʃs/	/'ti:tʃɪz/
transmit	_____	/træns'mɪtz/	/træns'mɪts/	/træns'mɪtɪz/
notebook	_____	/'nəʊtbʊkz/	/'nəʊtbʊks/	/'nəʊtbʊkɪz/
play	_____	/pleɪz/	/pleɪs/	/'pleɪɪz/
miss	_____	/mɪsz/	/mɪss/	/'mɪsɪz/
edge	_____	/ɛdʒz/	/ɛdʒs/	/'ɛdʒɪz/
fountain	_____	/'faʊntɪnz/	/'faʊntɪns/	/'faʊntɪnɪz/
knife	_____	/naɪvz/	/naɪfs/	/'naɪvɪz/
language	_____	/'læŋɡwɪdʒz/	/'læŋɡwɪdʒs/	/'læŋɡwɪdʒɪz/
piece	_____	/pi:sz/	/pi:ss/	/'pi:sɪz/
laugh	_____	/lɑ:fz/	/lɑ:fs/	/'lɑ:fɪz/
math ⁽¹⁾	_____	/mæθz/	/mæθs/	/'mæθɪz/
trumpet	_____	/'trʌmpətz/	/'trʌmpəts/	/'trʌmpətɪz/

⁽¹⁾ The singular form is used in American English, the plural form in British English.