

How to Pronounce Past-Tense Endings

Follow these guidelines for when to pronounce a past-tense -ed ending as "t", "d" or "ed"

- Remember that these guidelines are based on how a word *sounds*, not on how it is *spelled*.
- Many words are spelled with a silent 'e' on the end. Don't count that final 'e' as a vowel sound.

-ed = t

Anytime -ed occurs after these *unvoiced* consonants [p, k, s, f, sh, ch, th]

Examples:

hoped = hopt

laughed = laft

unearthed = unearht

parked = parkt

wished = wisht

hissed = hist

hatched = hacht

-ed = d

Anytime -ed occurs after a vowel or a *voiced* consonant (Notice there can also be a *voiced 'th'* sound)

Examples:

dimmed = dimd

tagged = tagd

judged = jujd

banned = band

bailed = baid

bathed = baythd

hanged = hangd

loved = lovd

stubbed = stubd

buzzed = buzd

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-ed = ed

Anytime -ed follows *t* or *d*, it's pronounced as an additional syllable.

Examples:

waited = wait-ed

decided = decid-ed

created = creat-ed

needed = need-ed

deleted = delet-ed

avoided = avoid-ed

started = start-ed

responded = respond-ed

-ed = t sentences:

Hoped = I [hopt] we could leave early

Parked = She [parkt] down the street.

Wished = We [wisht] him a Happy Birthday!

-ed = d sentences:

Buzzed = I [buzd] them into the building.

Called = He [cald] yesterday.

Tagged = She [tagd] him in the photo.

-ed = ed sentences:

Voted = I voted in the last election.

Added = She added him to her contacts.

Started = I started a new job.

Decided = They decided where to eat.