

# When to use -s, -z and -ez

Follow these guidelines for when to pronounce an 's' sound in a word as "s", "z" or "ez"

- 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.
- These guidelines are not a complete list, but they cover the more common occurrences of when to use 's' and 'z'.

## -s endings

Anytime an 's' occurs after these unvoiced consonants [k, p, t, f, th]

Examples:

<i>graphics</i>	<i>stops</i>	<i>plants</i>	<i>laughs</i>	<i>births</i>
<i>makes</i>	<i>maps</i>	<i>sheets</i>	<i>surfs</i>	<i>deaths</i>
<i>backpacks</i>	<i>cups</i>	<i>suits</i>	<i>graphs</i>	<i>paths</i>

## -z endings

Anytime an 's' occurs at the end of a word and it follows a vowel or a *voiced* consonant.

Examples:

<i>meetings</i>	<i>hours</i>	<i>managers</i>	<i>calls</i>	<i>lives</i>
<i>computers</i>	<i>users</i>	<i>sales</i>	<i>plans</i>	<i>engineers</i>
<i>grades</i>	<i>funds</i>	<i>agendas</i>	<i>drives</i>	<i>shows</i>

# When to use -s, -z and -ez

## -z in the middle of a word

If a single 's' is placed between two vowels, it will sound like a 'z'.

Examples:

<i>easy</i>	<i>closing</i>	<i>music</i>	<i>season</i>
<i>reason</i>	<i>business</i>	<i>nosey</i>	<i>cousin</i>
<i>lazer</i>	<i>deisel</i>	<i>wiser</i>	<i>loser</i>

## -ez endings

If a word ends in the following sounds [s, z, sh, ch, dj], an additional syllable is added to the end that sounds like -ez.

Examples:

<i>offices</i>	<i>poses</i>	<i>brushes</i>	<i>churches</i>	<i>manages</i>
<i>businesses</i>	<i>utilizes</i>	<i>crashes</i>	<i>watches</i>	<i>wages</i>
<i>glasses</i>	<i>fuzes</i>	<i>dishes</i>	<i>teaches</i>	<i>bridges</i>