

English PLURAL
Pronunciation – Sounds /s/, /z/ and /ɪz/

→ The **/s/** sound is used if the word ends in the following sounds:

Standard phonetic symbols	Examples
/p/	stops, ships
/t/	hits, pets
/k/	attacks, bricks
/f/	laughs, coughs
/θ/ = th (thin)	maths

These sounds are all **unvoiced**, which means that your vocal chords must be silent when you make the sound.

→ The **/z/** sound is used if the word ends in the following sounds:

Standard phonetic symbols	Examples
/b/	grabs, robs
/d/	lids, rods
/g/	pigs, dogs
/v/	loves, leaves
/ð/ = th	breathes
/l/	hills, fails
/m/	comes, trams
/n/	earns, burns
/ ng /	songs, paintings
/r/	writers
any vowel sound	plays, employees, goes, news

These sounds are all **voiced**, which means that your vocal chords must make a sound when you pronounce them.

→ The final **/ɪz/** sound is used if the word ends in the following sounds:

Standard phonetic symbols	Examples
/s/	buses, places
/z/	chooses, sizes
/ʃ/	washes, wishes
/tʃ/	watches, matches
/dʒ/	Judges, pages

If a word ends in a consonant sound + 'y', the pronunciation of final 'y' is /EE/ and in the plural it has a type 3 sound, but there is no extra syllable e.g. 'copy' /KO PEE/ (2 syllables), 'copies' /KO PIZ/ (also 2 syllables).