

Sometimes -s Is [z], Sometimes -s Is [s]

CK-12 English

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-s as [z] or [s]

Suffix -s pronounced [z] as in "gives" and [s] as in "waits"

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[Figure1]

When the suffix -s is added to a verb that ends in [p], [t], [f], [th], or [k], the -s is pronounced [s]. Everywhere else the suffix -s is pronounced [z].

Examples

Verbs with -s pronounced [s]	Verbs with -s pronounced [z]
attacks	grabs
stops	roars
blasts	breathes

Review

Each of the following verbs ends with the suffix -s. Say each one carefully:

gives	keeps	talks	grows	waits	strikes
holds	says	resounds	sniffs	digests	unearths
elects	unlocks	coughs	weighs	fastens	seems

1. Sort the verbs into these two groups:

Verbs with -s pronounced . . .

[s]		[z]	

[Figure2]

Analyze each of the verbs in which -s is pronounced [s] into its free stem and suffix:

Verbs with -s pronounced [s]	= Free Stem	+ Suffix
2. elects	=	+
3. keeps	=	+
4. unlocks	=	+
5. talks	=	+
6. coughs	=	+
7. sniffs	=	+
8. waits	=	+
9. digests	=	+
10. strikes	=	+
11. unearths	=	+

Each of the free stems above should end with the sounds [p], [t], [f], [th], or [k].

Review (Answers)

1.

Verbs with -s pronounced . . .

[s]		[z]	
<i>elects</i>	<i>sniffs</i>	<i>gives</i>	<i>grows</i>
<i>keeps</i>	<i>waits</i>	<i>holds</i>	<i>weighs</i>
<i>unlocks</i>	<i>digests</i>	<i>says</i>	<i>fastens</i>
<i>talks</i>	<i>strikes</i>	<i>resounds</i>	<i>seems</i>
<i>coughs</i>	<i>unearths</i>		

Verbs with -s pronounced [s]	= Free Stem	+ Suffix
2. elects	= <i>elect</i>	+ s
3. keeps	= <i>keep</i>	+ s
4. unlocks	= <i>unlock</i>	+ s
5. talks	= <i>talk</i>	+ s
6. coughs	= <i>cough</i>	+ s
7. sniffs	= <i>sniff</i>	+ s
8. waits	= <i>wait</i>	+ s
9. digests	= <i>digest</i>	+ s
10. strikes	= <i>strike</i>	+ s
11. unearths	= <i>unearth</i>	+ s

1.0 REFERENCES

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