

The Special

CK-12 English

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CK-12 English



Dropping the Sound <d>

"Handsome" and other words where <d> is not always pronounced

The Special <d>



There is one time when the <d> spelling of [d] may be hard to remember - because sometimes it is hard to hear the [d] sound at all. Sometimes a <d> may not be pronounced if it comes at the end of its element, and it has an <n> in front of it and a consonant after it, especially if that consonant is the letter <s>.

Examples

For example, in the word *grandmother* some people pronounce the <d>, but most people usually do not. Most often it sounds like [granmuthər], with no [d] sound.

Other examples include the words *handkerchief* and *handsome*.

The word *handkerchief* analyzes to *hand* “hand” + *kerchief* “cover for the head.” The stem *kerchief* analyzes in turn to *ker* + *chief*. *Ker* is all that is left of older version of the word *cover*. *Chief* means “head. (Note that the words *chief* and *chef* are very closely related.)

The word *handsome* also contains *hand* meaning “hand.” The suffix *-some* forms adjectives. Originally *handsome* meant “easy to handle, ready at hand.” Then it came to mean “handy, convenient, suitable” and later “of fair size or amount” (as in the phrase *a handsome reward*). Finally it came to its most common modern meaning: “having a fine form or figure, good looking.”

Review

Read aloud the words in the Word column. Listen for whether or not you pronounce the <d>s. Sometimes you may hear a clear [d]; sometimes the <d> may be pronounced more like [t]; sometimes it may be left out completely. Don't be surprised if you hear different people saying the <d>s in these words differently. We're allowed a certain amount of choice here. Analyze the words as instructed in the Analysis column.

Word	Analysis
1. friendship	Noun + suffix = <i>friend + ship</i>
2. surrounds	Verb + suffix =
3. handkerchief	Noun + noun =
4. comprehends	Verb + suffix =
5. handful	Noun + suffix =
6. grounds	Noun + suffix =
7. thousands	Noun + suffix =
8. bands	Noun + suffix =
9. grandfather	Adjective + noun =
10. spends	Verb + suffix =
11. handsome	Noun + suffix =
12. husbands	Noun + suffix =
13. landscape	Noun + suffix =
14. handsful	Noun + suffix + suffix =
15. suspends	Verb + suffix =
16. weekends	Noun + suffix + suffix =
17. grandma	Adjective + noun =
18. corresponds	Verb + suffix =
19. islands	Noun + suffix =
20. attends	Verb + suffix =
21. sounds	Verb + suffix =
22. playgrounds	Noun + suffix =
23. bookends	Noun + noun + suffix =

24. In all of these words, where is the <d> in its element (at the front, the end, or in the middle)? _____. What letter is right in front of the <d> in each case? _____. Is there a vowel after the <d> each time, or is it a consonant? _____. What letter usually comes right after the <d> in these words? _____.

Review (Answers)

Word	Analysis	= Analysis
1. friendship	Noun + suffix	= <i>friend + ship</i>
2. surrounds	Verb + suffix	= <i>surround + s</i>
3. handkerchief	Noun + noun	= <i>hand + kerchief</i>
4. comprehends	Verb + suffix	= <i>comprehend + s</i>
5. handful	Noun + suffix	= <i>hand + ful</i>
6. grounds	Noun + suffix	= <i>ground + s</i>
7. thousands	Noun + suffix	= <i>thousand + s</i>
8. bands	Noun + suffix	= <i>band + s</i>
9. grandfather	Adjective + noun	= <i>grand + father</i>
10. spends	Verb + suffix	= <i>spend + s</i>
11. handsome	Noun + suffix	= <i>hand + some</i>
12. husbands	Noun + suffix	= <i>husband + s</i>
13. landscape	Noun + suffix	= <i>land + scape</i>
14. handsful	Noun + suffix ¹ + suffix ²	= <i>hand + s + ful</i>
15. suspends	Verb + suffix	= <i>suspend + s</i>
16. weekends	Noun ¹ + suffix ² + suffix	= <i>week + end + s</i>
17. grandma	Adjective + noun	= <i>grand + ma</i>
18. corresponds	Verb + suffix	= <i>correspond + s</i>
19. islands	Noun + suffix	= <i>island + s</i>
20. attends	Verb + suffix	= <i>attend + s</i>
21. sounds	Verb + suffix	= <i>sound + s</i>
22. playgrounds	Noun ¹ + noun ² + suffix	= <i>play + ground + s</i>
23. bookends	Noun ¹ + noun ² + suffix	= <i>book + end + s</i>

24. In all of these words, where is the <d> in its element (at the front, the end, or in the middle)? at the end. What letter is right in front of the <d> in each case? ≤n>. Is there a vowel after the <d> each time, or is it a consonant? consonant. What letter usually comes right after the <d> in these words? ≤s>.

1.0 REFERENCES

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