

The Suffix -ed Has Different Pronunciations

CK-12 English

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Pronunciations of -ed

Suffix -ed pronounced [ɪd], [d], or [t] depending on the base

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What is involved in the three pronunciations of *-ed* is the distinction between voiced and unvoiced sounds. In general, in English we avoid putting certain voiced and unvoiced consonants together.

In the case of the suffix *-ed*, the reasoning goes as follows:

1. After the unvoiced sounds [s, f, p, ch, sh, k] *-ed* has the unvoiced pronunciation [t].
2. After all voiced sounds except [d] it has the voiced pronunciation [d].
3. After [t] and [d] the vowel [ɪ] is inserted to avoid the endings [tt] and [dd], which would be difficult to pronounce and inevitably would be simplified to [t] and [td].

Examples

Words in which *-ed* is pronounced [t]: hoped, walked, kissed

Words in which *-ed* is pronounced [ɪd]: mended, visited, wanted

Words in which *-ed* is pronounced [d]: learned, smelled, played

Review

Below are six words in which *-ed* is pronounced [t]. Analyze each one into a free base and the suffix *-ed*:

Word in which *-ed* is pronounced [t]: = Free Base + Suffix

1. helped

=

+

Word in which -ed is pronounced [t]: = Free Base + Suffix

2. guessed	=	+
3. reached	=	+
4. laughed	=	+
5. fished	=	+
6. kicked	=	+

7. Listen to the last sound in the six free bases above. Each of them ends in one of four different sounds. List the sounds below:

--	--	--	--	--	--

8. The suffix -ed is pronounced _____ when it is added to words that end with the sounds _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.

9. The suffix -ed is pronounced [id] whenever it is added to words that end with the sounds _____ or _____.

Now you know when -ed is pronounced [id] and when it is pronounced [t]. Everywhere else it is pronounced [d].

10. The suffix -ed is pronounced _____ when it is added to words that end with the sounds _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, or _____; it is pronounced _____ when it is added to words that end with the sounds _____ and _____; and everywhere else it is pronounced _____. The suffix -ed is always spelled _____.

Show Answers

Explore More

Word Squares

You'll find some hints here and there to help you add the following words to the Word Square.

Four-letter words: *open, hard, kind, fuel*

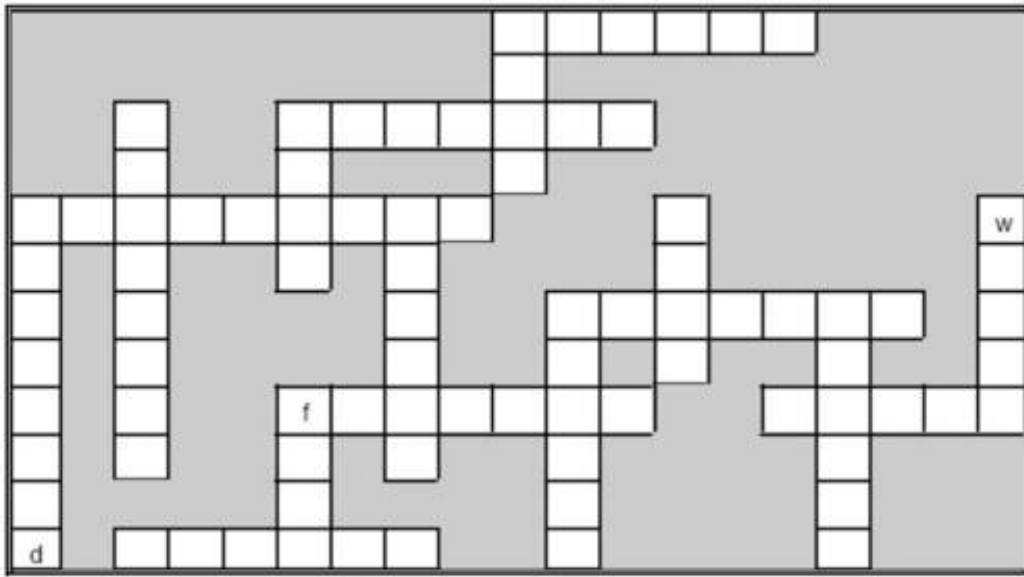
Five-letter words: *could, would*

Six-letter words: *opener, number, kinder, should, fueled*

Seven-letter words: *hardest, kindest, fueling*

Eight-letter words: *numbered*, *numberer*

Nine-letter word: *numbering*



Show Answers
