

[z] Spelled or

CK-12 English

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Printed: February 5, 2022 (PST)



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[z] Spelled <zz> or <ss>

[z] spelled <zz> as in "puzzle" or <ss> as in "dessert"

[z] Spelled <zz> or <ss>



[Figure1]

There are several rare spellings of [z], including <ss> and <zz>.

Examples

The sound [z] is spelled <ss> only rarely, and the <ss> is always in the middle of the word like *scissors*.

The <zz> spelling of [z] like in *blizzard* is also rather rare. It is sometimes due to [twinning](#) and sometimes due to the VCC pattern, and it occurs between short vowels and <le>.

Review

1. Underline the letters that spell [z] in the following words.

blizzard	whizzed	quizzing	grizzly
sizzle	scissors	possess	brassiere
dessert	puzzles	dizzy	possession
dissolve	fezzes	dazzle	embezzle

2. Sort the words into these two groups.

Words with [z] spelled . . .

<zz>		<ss>	

[Figure2]

3.

The words above in which <zz> is due to twinning are:

--	--	--

[Figure3]

4.

The words in which <zz> is between a short vowel and <le> are:

[Figure4]

5.

The words in which <zz> is in a VCC pattern are:

--	--

[Figure5]

6.

The words above in which [z] is spelled <s> are:

--	--	--

[Figure6]

Review (Answers)

1.

<i>blizz<u>ard</u></i>	<i>whizz<u>ed</u></i>	<i>quizz<u>ing</u></i>	<i>grizz<u>ly</u></i>
<i>sizz<u>le</u></i>	<i>sciss<u>ors</u></i>	<i>poss<u>ess</u></i>	<i>brass<u>iere</u></i>
<i>dess<u>ert</u></i>	<i>puzz<u>les</u></i>	<i>dizz<u>y</u></i>	<i>poss<u>ession</u></i>
<i>diss<u>olve</u></i>	<i>fezz<u>es</u></i>	<i>dazz<u>le</u></i>	<i>embezz<u>le</u></i>

2.

Words with [z] spelled...

<zz>		<ss>	
blizzard	quizzing	dessert	possess
sizzle	dizzy	dissolve	brassiere
whizzed	dazzle	scissors	possession
puzzles	grizzly		
fezzes	embezzle		

3. The words above in which <zz> is due to **twinning** are:

whizzed fezzes quizzing

4. The words in which <zz> is between a short vowel and <le> are:

sizzle dazzle embezzle
puzzles grizzly

5. The words in which <zz> is in a VCC pattern are:

blizzard dizzy

6. The words above in which [z] is spelled <s> are:

scissors puzzles fezzes

Explore More

A few other rare spellings of [z] are as follows.

In the Russian word *czar*, [z] is spelled <cz>. Another way of spelling this word is *tsar*, in which [z] is spelled <ts>.

In the word *asthma* [z] is spelled <sth>.

Finally, the letter <x> at the beginning of words normally spells [z], such as in these words:

xerography xenon xylophone xenophobia

1.0 REFERENCES

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