

Pronunciation of ED

ED appears at the end of regular verbs in the [past tense](#) (e.g. wanted, helped, lived) sometimes in [adjectives ending in ED](#) (e.g. tired, embarrassed, relaxed) as well as in some [Past Participles](#).

However the pronunciation of ED sometimes causes problems for non-native speakers because it can be pronounced in three different ways: as /id/, as /t/ or as /d/

(Note: whenever you see letters or symbols between two slash marks (/ /), it refers to the pronunciation of that letter or sound)

Before we learn the different ways to pronounce ED, we must first know what voiced and voiceless consonants are.

1. The /id/ sound

If the last letter of the word is spelled with D or T, the ED is pronounced as a separate syllable with an /id/ sound (it rhymes with *kid* and *lid*).

- wanted (sounds like "want-id")
- waited
- needed
- folded

2. The /t/ sound

If the last consonant of the word is **voiceless**, then the ED is pronounced as a T. Be careful not to create an extra syllable or "id" sound.

- talked (sounds like "talkt")
- kissed (the S sound comes from the front of mouth so it would sound like "kisst")
- parked
- helped

NOTE: As an example, with the word "helped", if you say "help-id" as a two syllable word, then it is very likely that people will NOT understand the word or what you are saying. (It is pronounced like "helpt")

3. The /d/ sound

If the last letter of the words ends in a **voiced** consonant (or sound), then the ED is pronounced like a D (without creating another syllable)

- played (sounds like "playd")
- closed (the S sounds like a vibrating Z so the word would sound like "clozd")
- opened
- lived

An easy way to remember how to pronounce ED words


The most important thing to remember is that there are two main divisions:

1. The words that end in T or D
 - the ED is pronounced as a syllable /id/
2. and the REST of the words
 - you can pronounce the ED as /t/ and people will understand.

In time you will learn when to pronounce the ED as /t/ or /d/.

Summary Chart

Pronunciation of ED



/id/	/t/	/d/
<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> T wanted D needed </div> <p>* Voiced Sound = uses the vocal cords and they produce a vibration or humming sound in the throat. <i>(Touch your throat to feel it)</i></p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> P helped K looked F sniffed GH laughed SH washed CH watched SS kissed C danced X fixed </div> <p style="text-align: center;">VOICELESS</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 10px; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> L called N cleaned R offered G damaged V loved S used Z amazed B rubbed M claimed </div> <p style="text-align: center;">VOICED *</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Words that end in a vowel sound use the /d/ pronunciation for ED. e.g. -- followed -- enjoyed -- played -- tried -- continued</p>		

The pronunciation of words ending in ED depends on the final consonant sound. There are three ways to pronounce ED at the end of a word in English:

/id/ /t/ /d/