

### Pronunciation of suffix -ed\*

1. The *-(e)d* of the Simple Past tense is pronounced as /d/ (voiced) after any voiced sound. Remember that the voiced sounds are sounds that are produced by vibration of the vocal cords.

The **voiced sounds** in English are:

- a. All vowels, diphthongs and triphthongs.
- b. /b/, /g/, /dʒ/ (e.g. *judge*), /l/, /m/, /n/, /r/, voiced *th* (as in *bathe*), /v/, *ng* (e.g. *bang*), /ʒ/ (e.g. *measure*), /z/ (e.g. *buzz*)

**Examples:** played, studied, robbed, hanged, called, rammed, turned, occurred, clothed, received

2. The *-(e)d* of the Simple Past (and Past Participle) is pronounced as /t/ (voiceless) after a voiceless sound, except when the bare infinitive ends in sounds /d/ and /t/ (e.g.: want /wɒnt/, decide /dɪ'saɪd/). Remember that the voiceless sounds are sounds that are produced with no vibration of the vocal cords.

The **voiceless sounds** in English are:

- a. /f/, /k/, /p/, /t/, /s/, voiceless *th* → /θ/ (as in *with*), *ch* → /tʃ/ (as in *watch*), *sh* → /ʃ/ (as in *wash*).

**Examples:** laughed, talked, stopped, watched, washed

3. When the final sound of a verb is /t/, or /d/ (e.g.: want, decide), the *-ed* is pronounced as a separate syllable: /ɪd/. Therefore, if a verb ends in one of these sounds, the Past Simple tense and the Past Participle will have one more syllable than the simple form.

**Examples:**

want /wɒnt/ (1 syllable) → wanted /wɒntɪd/ (2 syllables)

need /ni:d/ (1 syllable) → needed /'ni:ɪd/

decide /dɪ'saɪd/ (2 syllables) → decided /dɪ'saɪɪd/ (3 syllables)

\* **Note:** The letters between the slash marks / / refer to sounds, not to spelling.