

How to Pronounce -ed in English

The **past simple tense** and **past participle** of all regular verbs end in **-ed**. For example:

base verb (v1)	past simple (v2)	past participle (v3)
work	worked	worked

In addition, many **adjectives** are made from the past participle and so end in **-ed**. For example:

- I like paint**ed** furniture.

The question is: **How do we pronounce the -ed?**

The answer is: **In 3 ways - / Id/ or / t/ or / d/**

If the base verb ends in one of these <u>sounds</u> :		example base verb*:	example with - ed:	pronounce the -ed:	extra syllable?
unvoiced	/t/	want	<u>wanted</u>	/ <u>I</u> d/	Yes
voiced	/d/	end	<u>ended</u>		
unvoiced	/p/	hope	<u>hoped</u>	/ <u>t</u> /	No
	/f/	laugh	<u>laughed</u>		
	/s/	fax	<u>faxed</u>		
	/S/	wash	<u>washed</u>		
	/tS/	watch	<u>watched</u>		
	/k/	like	<u>liked</u>		
voiced	all other sounds, for example...	play	<u>played</u>	/ <u>d</u> /	
		allow	<u>allowed</u>		
		beg	<u>begged</u>		

* note that it is the **sound** that is important, not the letter or spelling. For example, "fax" ends in the letter "x" but the sound /s/; "like" ends in the letter "e" but the sound /k/.

Exceptions

The following -ed words used **as adjectives** are pronounced with /Id/:

- aged
- dogged
- ragged
- blessed
- learned
- wicked
- crooked
- naked
- wretched

So we say:

- an aged man /Id/
- a blessed nuisance /Id/
- a dogged persistence /Id/
- a learned professor - the professor, who was truly learned /Id/
- a wretched beggar - the beggar was wretched /Id/

But when used as real verbs (past simple and past participle), the normal rules apply and we say:

- he aged quickly /d/
 - he blessed me /t/
 - they dogged him /d/
 - he has learned well /d/ or /t/
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Pronunciation of ED



The pronunciation of words ending in ED depends on the final consonant (sound). There are three ways to pronounce ED:

/id/

T wanted
D needed

Voiced Sound
= uses the vocal
cords and they
produce a vibration
or humming sound
in the throat.

(Touch your throat to feel it)

/t/

P helped
K looked
SH washed
CH watched
GH laughed
TH breathed
SS kissed
C danced
X fixed

VOICELESS

/d/

L called
N cleaned
R offered
G damaged
V loved
S used
W followed
Y enjoyed
Z amazed

VOICED

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