

Three Ways to Pronounce 'ed'

Lets' Learn!

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

- **work, worked, worked**

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

- **I like painted rooms.**

But how do we pronounce the **-ed**? The answer is in 3 ways: **/ɪd/, /t/ or /d/**

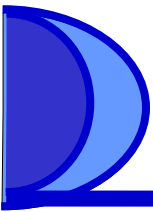
If the base verb ends in one of these sounds		example base verb	example with -ed	pronounce the -ed as
/t/		want	wanted	/ɪd/
/d/		end	ended	
unvoiced	/p/	hope	hoped	/t/
	/f/	laugh	laughed	
	/s/	fax	faxed	
	/ʃ/	wash	washed	
	/tʃ/	watch	watched	
	/k/	like	liked	
voiced	all other sounds, eg	play	played	/d/
		allow	allowed	
		beg	begged	

*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 is /s/; **like** ends in the letter **e** but the sound is /k/.

Exceptions

The following -ed words used **as adjectives** are pronounced with **/ɪd/**.

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



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So we say:

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

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/

Let's Try!

Activity A.

Listen closely as your teacher reads the following words, and sort them into the correct columns.

acted	asked	baked	called	cared	cried
crowded	ended	filled	floated	folded	melted
missed	needed	placed	planned	played	rested
ruled	seemed	shipped	spelled	stamped	stopped
wagged	waited	wanted	watched	wished	wrapped

/d/

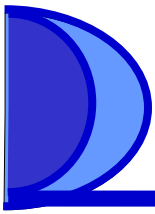
/t/

/ɪd/

called

asked

acted



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Activity B.

Fill in the blanks with the simple past of the following regular verbs. Then write the correct pronunciation of **-ed** in the brackets. /d/ /t/ /ɪd/

ex. I _____ rest after playing soccer. **need** / /
I needed rest after playing soccer. **need** /ɪd/

1. The children _____ on the trampoline. **jump** / /
2. He _____ the glass with water. **fill** / /
3. Grandma _____ his mitten. **mend** / /
4. The funny clown _____ his hands. **clapped** / /
5. Nixon _____ for his friends. **waited** / /
6. The firemen _____ the puppies. **saved** / /
7. We _____ that the team would win. **hope** / /
8. The campers _____ back to the tent. **head** / /
9. The old engine _____ along. **chug** / /
10. He _____ his head down. **duck** / /