

University of Baghdad
College of Physical Education and Sport Sciences for Women
English Language | Fourth Stage | E14 442

LECTURE 3

Pronunciation: Vowel Sounds and the Past -ed Ending

Hearing the Difference and Practising with AI Tools



Speak



Listen



Sound



Practise

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Learning Outcomes

By the end of this lecture, the student will be able to:

- distinguish short and long vowel sounds in common sports words;
- hear and produce minimal pairs such as ship / sheep and full / fool;
- apply the silent e rule when reading new words;
- pronounce the past -ed ending in its three forms: /t/, /d/ and /ɪd/;
- use phone and AI tools to check and improve pronunciation.

1. Warm-Up: Five Letters, Many Sounds



mouth



ear



sound



voice

English has only five vowel letters: **a, e, i, o, u**. Yet it has about **twenty vowel sounds**. This is why spelling alone cannot tell us how to say a word. We need our ears as much as our eyes.

Say these words aloud: **sit, seat, sport, shoe, run**. Do the vowels sound the same? Discuss with your partner.

2. Short Vowel Sounds

Each sound has a **reference word**: an everyday word that helps you remember it. Learn the reference word first, then the sports word.

Sound	Reference word	Sports word	Mouth tip
/ɪ/	sit	swim, kick	short, relaxed, lips slightly open
/e/	bed	net, set	mouth half open
/æ/	cat	bat, match	mouth wide open, jaw down
/ʌ/	cup	run, jump	short, open, relaxed
/ɒ/	hot	shot, jog	lips round and open
/ʊ/	book	foot, push	lips round, short
/ə/	about	arena, balance	the weakest sound in English

3. Long Vowel Sounds

Long vowels are held for longer. In phonetic writing the two dots : mean long.

Sound	Reference word	Sports word	Mouth tip
/i:/	see	team, field	smile, lips spread
/ɑ:/	car	start, march	mouth open, deep sound
/ɔ:/	door	sport, ball	lips round, long
/u:/	blue	shoe, pool	lips round and pushed forward

Sound	Reference word	Sports word	Mouth tip
/ɜ:/	bird	serve, first	lips relaxed, tongue in the middle

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4. Minimal Pairs

A **minimal pair** is two words that differ in one sound only. If you change the sound, you change the meaning. Read each pair aloud with your partner.

Word 1	Word 2	Sentence to practise
ship	sheep	The ship carried sheep.
sit	seat	Sit on your seat.
full	fool	The pool is full.
pull	pool	Pull the rope near the pool.
cap	cup	She won a cup, not a cap.
hot	heart	In hot weather my heart beats fast.

5. The Silent e Rule

When a word ends in **vowel + consonant + e**, the final e is silent and the first vowel usually **says its name**.

Without e	With silent e	Sound change
hop	hope	/ɒ/ becomes /əʊ/
fin	fine	/ɪ/ becomes /aɪ/
cut	cute	/ʌ/ becomes /ju:/
not	note	/ɒ/ becomes /əʊ/
rid	ride	/ɪ/ becomes /aɪ/

6. The Past -ed Ending: Three Sounds



jumped /t/



played /d/



started /ɪd/

Sound	When?	Examples
/t/	after voiceless sounds: p, k, s, sh, ch, f	jumped, kicked, passed, finished, watched, laughed

Sound	When?	Examples
/d/	after voiced sounds and vowels: b, g, l, m, n, v, r, y	played, scored, trained, moved, climbed, cleaned
/ɪd/	after t and d only	started, wanted, needed, landed, defended, waited



The Throat Test

Put your fingers on your throat and say the last sound of the verb.

If your throat vibrates (voiced), the ending is /d/: play → played.

If it does not vibrate (voiceless), the ending is /t/: jump → jumped.

If the verb ends in t or d, add a new syllable /ɪd/: start → star-ted.



Common Mistake

Do not add an extra syllable to every -ed verb.

✗ jump-ed (two syllables) ✓ jumpt (one syllable)

✗ play-ed (two syllables) ✓ playd (one syllable)

7. Practice



Exercise A: Sort the Verbs

Write each verb in the correct column: /t/, /d/ or /ɪd/.

1. kicked
2. trained
3. wanted
4. passed
5. scored
6. landed
7. watched
8. moved
9. needed
10. stopped
11. climbed
12. waited



Exercise B: Odd One Out

Circle the word with a different vowel sound.

1. team field seat sit
2. run jump cup pool
3. sport ball door shot
4. shoe blue foot pool
5. serve first bird bed



Exercise C: Read Aloud

Read each sentence to your partner. Your partner listens for the -ed endings.

1. She jumped high and landed safely.
2. The team trained hard and played well.
3. We waited for the coach, then we started.
4. The goalkeeper stopped the ball and kicked it forward.
5. They needed one point, and they scored it.

8. AI Corner: Practising Pronunciation with Technology



phone



AI assistant



online dictionary

Tool	How to use it
Phone voice typing	Speak a sentence into your phone. If the phone writes the correct words, your pronunciation is clear.
Online dictionary audio	Cambridge Dictionary gives British and American audio for every word. Listen, pause and repeat.
AI assistant	Ask: Give me ten minimal pairs with /ɪ/ and /i:/ using sports words. Then practise them aloud.
Pronunciation apps	Apps such as ELSA Speak score your pronunciation and show which sound needs work.



Use AI Wisely

AI tools are practice partners, not judges. They can make mistakes with accents. Always compare with a human model: your teacher, a dictionary recording or a native speaker video.

9. Key Vocabulary

English	Arabic	Example
vowel	صوت علة / حرف علة	a, e, i, o, u are vowel letters.
consonant	صوت ساكن	b, d, k are consonants.
syllable	مقطع صوتي	started has two syllables.
minimal pair	زوج أدنى	ship / sheep
voiced	مجهور	The /d/ sound is voiced.
voiceless	مهموس	The /t/ sound is voiceless.
silent	صامت (لا يُلفظ)	The e in hope is silent.
stress	نبر	In ATH-lete the stress is on the first syllable.

10. Quick Quiz

1. Which word has a long vowel /i:/?

- a) sit
- b) ship
- c) team
- d) kick

2. The -ed in watched sounds like:

- a) /t/
- b) /d/
- c) /ɪd/
- d) silent

3. The -ed in scored sounds like:

- a) /t/
- b) /d/
- c) /ɪd/
- d) /ed/

4. Which verb adds an extra syllable?

- a) played
- b) jumped
- c) landed
- d) moved

5. Which pair is a minimal pair?

- a) team / teams
- b) full / fool
- c) ball / basket
- d) swim / swimming

6. In hope the letter e is:

- a) long
- b) short
- c) silent
- d) stressed

11. Homework

Record yourself reading the five sentences of Exercise C on your phone. Listen to the recording and check the -ed endings. Post the recording on Google Classroom.

Answer Key

- Exercise A: /t/ kicked, passed, watched, stopped; /d/ trained, scored, moved, climbed; /ɪd/ wanted, landed, needed, waited
- Exercise B: 1. sit 2. pool 3. shot 4. foot 5. bed
- Quick Quiz: 1. team 2. /t/ 3. /d/ 4. landed 5. full / fool 6. silent



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