

It's George's birthday

Pronouncing -s endings

A

We use -s (or -es) endings in four different ways.

- in plural nouns: Why have you got three **phones** on your desk?
- in verbs: She **phones** him every day.
- in possessives: Have you got **Maria's** phone number?
- in the contractions of *is* and *has*: The **phone's** ringing. The **film's** started.

C74a

When we add an -s (or -es) ending to a word, the number of syllables in the word sometimes stays the same. Listen.

day I'm staying for a **day**. (1 syllable)

days I'm staying for **two days**. (1 syllable)

C74b

But sometimes we add an extra syllable to the pronunciation. Listen.

match Have you got a **match**? (1 syllable)

matches Have you got any **matches**? (2 syllables)

B

C75a

Listen and notice the number of syllables in the words on the left.

	number of syllables	
go	1	It's time to go.
goes	1	Hit the ball and watch where it goes.
finish	2	When does the course finish?
finishes	3	Do you know when the course finishes?
George	1	Have you met George?
George's	2	It's George's birthday.
train	1	We're waiting for the train.
train's	1	The train's late again.
box	1	Open the box.
boxes	2	Open the boxes.
boss	1	That's the boss.
boss's	2	That's the boss's office.
glove	1	Is this your glove?
gloves	1	Are these your gloves?
page	1	Which is the right page?
pages	2	This book's got 120 pages.

The rule is that we add an extra syllable if the last sound in the word is one of these:

/s/ /z/ /ʃ/ /ʒ/ /tʃ/ /dʒ/

If the last sound is a vowel, or any other consonant, the number of syllables stays the same.



Note: We don't contract *is* or *has* after /s/ /z/ /ʃ/ /ʒ/ /tʃ/ /dʒ/. Listen.


C75b

The food's good. The service is good.

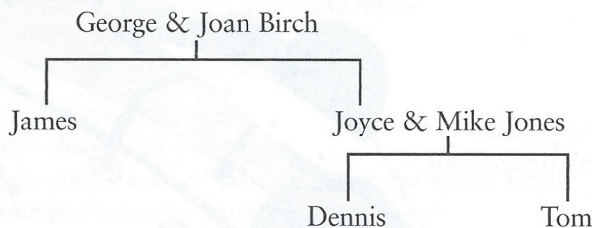
The game's started. The match has started.

Complete these sentences with the correct forms of the verbs and nouns.

- 1 Let's see who *finishes* (finish) these (exercise) first.
- 2 The bar (close) when the last customer (leave).
- 3 Don't make (promise) you can't keep.
- 4 Nobody (use) a typewriter nowadays, do they?
- 5 My dad's so tall that when he (reach) his hand up he (touch) the ceiling.


 Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen again and repeat.

42.2 Look at the family tree and complete the sentences.



EXAMPLE Joyce is George's daughter \rightarrow Joyce is George's daughter.

- 1 Joyce and Mike Dennis.....
2 Tom Dennis.....
3 James and Joyce Mr and Mrs Birch.....
4 Dennis George.....
5 Joyce Mike Jones.....

 **C77** Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen again and repeat.

42.3 Look at the picture and answer the questions below.



EXAMPLE Whose is the hat? Joyce's


- 1 Whose is the camera?
- 2 Whose are the skis?
- 3 Whose is the map?
- 4 Whose is the jacket?
- 5 Whose are the shoes?
- 6 Whose is the suitcase?

Now complete the sentences.

EXAMPLE The hat's Joyce's.....

- 7 The camera
- 8 The jacket
- 9 The shoes
- 10 The skis
- 11 The suitcase
- 12 The map

C78a Listen to check your answers.

 **C78b** Listen to check your answers. Check with the Key. Then listen and repeat.