

Lesson 38: Unvoiced [s] as in "son" and voiced [z] as in "zigzag"

Speech organs position:

The air escapes through a narrow passage along the centre of the tongue which squeezes between the top of the tongue and the alveolar ridge and you get [s] as in "sip"; add sound and you get [z].

B75

Words: the unvoiced [s] sound

Listen and repeat. Look at the mouth diagram to help you position your lips, tongue and jaw for the target sound.

Spelling variations for the [s] sound	Highlighted bold letters pronounced as [s]
s	swan, base, chase, paradise, practise, promise, gas, atlas, takes
sc	scientific, science, scent
c	finance, cemetery, circumstances, receive

B76

Sentences: the unvoiced [s] sound

Listen and repeat. Read each sentence aloud slowly at first, then as if you were telling it to someone in a natural way.

- Sort these books on the staircase as soon as you have a spare second.
- For supper, we've been served tasty sword fish with lemon sauce and succulent salad.
- The symphony seemed sad and sentimental.
- Simon saw seven silver swifts in the sea.
- Steven Smith stood seven foot six in his stocking feet.

B77

Verses: the unvoiced [s] sound

Listen and copy the intonation and voice modulation on the CD.

Steven thought he sang so sweetly
In his office everyday,
But so tuneless was his singing
He was paid to go away...



B78

Words: the voiced [z] sound

Listen and repeat. Look at the mouth diagram to help you position your lips, tongue and jaw for the target sound.

Spelling variations for the [z] sound	Highlighted bold letters pronounced as [z]
z	zoom, zealous, zip, zigzag, zoo, Zurich, zinc, zebra, zero, zest, Zimbabwe
s	scissors, use, does, has, is, as, was, easy, busy, dogs, trees, plays, cleanse

B79

Comparison: [s] and [z]

[s]	[z]
docks	dogs
hats	homes
hits	hums
cakes	kegs
nits	nuns
bits	bibs

B80**🎧 Sentences: the voiced [z] sound**

Listen and repeat. Read each sentence aloud slowly at first, then as if you were telling it to someone in a natural way.

1. Wise **Moses** had most reasonable **ideas**.
2. **Joseph** sup**poses** that his **toes** are **roses**.
3. **Zeta** rode a **zebra** in **Zimbabwe**.
4. **Ideas** do not fall from the **trees**.
5. **Zoë** spends **pounds** and **pounds** on **snazzy** **shoes** and **gowns**.
6. The bee **buzzes** **lazily** on the **pansies**, **daisies** and **roses**.

B81**🎧 Verses: the voiced [z] sound**

Listen and copy the intonation and voice modulation on the CD.

Scissors and string, scissors and string,
When a man's single he lives like a king.
Needles and pins, needles and pins,
When a man marries his trouble begins.

**Additional exercises:**

A: Write down 4 words with the target sound that you often use when speaking English. Practice these words, thinking about your lips, tongue and jaw positions for the target sound.

1. _____ 3. _____

2. _____ 4. _____

B: Write down 4 words with the target sound that you often hear on TV, radio or from your friends/colleagues. Practice these words, thinking about your lips, tongue and jaw positions for the target sound.

1. _____ 3. _____

2. _____ 4. _____