



Oberdan Santos
PROFESSOR DE INGLÊS

Pronunciation: "ed" endings

In the past simple regular verbs end in 'ed' and there are three different ways of pronouncing these two little letters – / **ɪd** /, / **d** / and / **t** /.

First let's look at the / **ɪd** / ending.

Regular verbs that end in the sound / **t** / or / **d** /, in the past simple the 'ed' ending is pronounced / **ɪd** /. Here are some examples:

Examples:

start – started

invite – invited

want – wanted

need – needed

decide – decided

The pronunciation of the 'ed' ending for other regular verbs in the past simple depends on whether the last sound of the infinitive of the verb is voiced or not. Regular verbs that end in voiced sounds will have / **d** / as the pronunciation of the 'ed' ending in the past simple. Here are some examples.

Examples:

smile – smiled

turn – turned

love – loved

seem – seemed

Finally, regular verbs that end in unvoiced sounds will have / **t** / as the pronunciation of the 'ed' ending in the past simple. Here are some examples.



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Examples:

jump – jumped kiss – kissed wash – washed look – looked
watch – watched

So, to recap. There are three different ways to pronounce the letters '-ed' for regular verbs in the past simple and the way to choose how to pronounce them depends on the final sound of the infinitive.

That's all from me, good luck with your grammar challenge!

Find out more

/ ɪd / infinitives that end in the sound / t / or / d /	/ d / infinitives that end in a voiced sound	/ t / infinitives that end in an unvoiced sound
needed hated dated seated	lived chilled enjoyed tried	shopped picked wished crunched

All vowel sounds are voiced.