

4

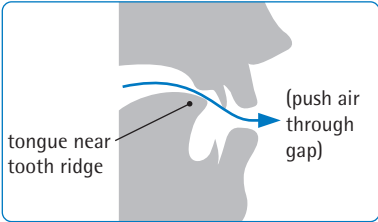
Rice, rise  
The consonant sounds /s/ and /z/

A

When you say the alphabet, the letters C and S are pronounced /si:/ and /es/. Notice they both have the consonant sound /s/. But S is also often pronounced as the consonant sound /z/.

A14a

- Listen to the sounds /s/ and /z/. Look at the mouth diagram to see how to make these consonant sounds. Notice that in the sound /s/, there is no voice from the throat. It sounds like the noise of a snake. In the sound /z/, there is voice from the throat. It sounds like the noise of a bee.



B

A14b

- Now listen to the sound /s/ on its own.

A14c

- Listen to the target sound /s/ in the words below and compare it with the words on each side.

target /s/

zoo	Sue	zoo
rise	rice	rise
shave	save	shave
thing	sing	thing



"It's six or seven years since Sydney's sister sang that song."

A14d

- Listen and repeat these examples of the target sound.  
sad city science scream  
glasses concert lost  
bus place class

C

A15a

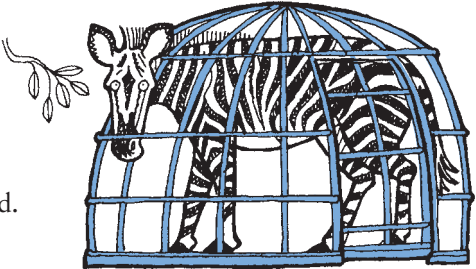
- Listen to the sound /z/ on its own.

A15b

- Listen to the target sound /z/ in the words below and compare it with the words on each side.

target /z/

Sue	zoo	Sue
place	plays	place
breathe	breeze	breathe
beige	bays	beige



"Zebras in zoos are like dolphins in pools."

A15c

- Listen and repeat these examples of the target sound.  
zoo zero  
lazy easy scissors exact  
size wise times

D

Spelling

	frequently	sometimes	notes
/s/	S (sad), SS (class) C (place)	SC (science)	X can spell /ks/ (mix). S is not always pronounced /s/ (sugar, rise, plays).
/z/	Z (zero), S (nose)	ZZ (buzz) SS (scissors)	X spells /gz/ (exact). -SE at the end of a word is usually pronounced /z/ (rise).

E



Pronunciation may be connected to grammar:  
close /kləʊs/ = adjective      close /kləʊz/ = verb      use /ju:s/ = noun      use /ju:z/ = verb  
house /haʊs/ = noun      house /haʊz/ = verb

Exercises

4.1 Find a way from Start to Finish. You may *not* pass a square if the word contains the sound /z/. You can move horizontally (↔) or vertically (↕) only.

START

spots	squares	prize	since	six	sports
streets	wise	sells	sits	exact	escapes
rice	rise	sense	science	lose	lost
oasis	desert	smokes	songs	crisps	box
place	face	snacks	seas	voice	boxes
plays	phase	nose	smiles	focus	concert

FINISH

4.2 Complete this conversation using words from the box. Then listen and check.

eyes ice niece knees

SID: Alice's niece is nice.  
JOE: Are nice, Sid. Plural. Her                      are nice.  
SID: I'm not talking about her                     , I'm talking about her                      !  
JOE: Oh, I see,                      with a C.  
SID: That's right. She has nice                      .  
JOE: How can                      be nice? It's too cold.  
SID: Not                     , you fool!                      : E-Y-E-S!



Follow up: Play the recording again, pausing it after each of Sid's lines. You say Joe's lines before listening to him saying them.

4.3 Listen to the sentences. Look at the words in *italics*. Underline the words in *italics* which contain the sound /s/ and circle the ones which contain the sound /z/. Then listen again and repeat.

EXAMPLE You can have my tent. It's no use to me. I never use it.  
1 I'm not going to *advise* you. You never take my *advice*.  
2 Your tooth is *loose*. You'll *lose* it if you're not careful.  
3 The shop's very *close* to home, and it doesn't *close* till late.  
4 I can't *excuse* people who drop litter. There's no *excuse* for it.

4.4 Listen and circle the word you hear. If you find any of these difficult, go to Section D *Sound pairs* for further practice.

- 1 Price or prize? I got a good *price* / *prize* for that painting. (⇒sound pair 31)
- 2 He sat or he's at? I don't know where *he sat* / *he's at*. (⇒sound pair 31)
- 3 Suit or shoot? They didn't *suit* / *shoot* him. (⇒sound pair 32)
- 4 Saved or shaved? I've *saved* / *shaved* a lot in the past few days. (⇒sound pair 32)
- 5 Sink or think? We didn't *sink* / *think*. (⇒sound pair 33)
- 6 Closed or clothed? They were *closed* / *clothed* for the cold weather. (⇒sound pair 33)

Now go to Unit 24