

Rule #1

The letter “z” makes the /z/ sound.

When deciding between /s/ and /z/, the letter “c” makes the /s/ sound*

<p>zipper /ZIH - per/</p>	<p>zero /ZEEE - roh/</p>	<p>amazing /uh - MAY - zihng/</p>
<p>zone /ZOHN/</p>	<p>lazy /LAY - zeee/</p>	<p>prize /PRIZ/</p>
<p>ceiling /SEEE - lihng/</p>	<p>recent /REEE - sihnt/</p>	<p>lattice /LAE - dihs/</p>
<p>celebrate /SEH - luh - brayt</p>	<p>decide /duh - SID/</p>	<p>practice /PRAEK - dihs/</p>

Rule #2

When the letter “s” comes at the beginning of a word, it makes the /s/ sound.

<p>say /SAY/</p>	<p>simple /SIHM - puh/</p>	<p>significant /sihg - NIH - fuh - kihnt/</p>
<p>signal /SIHG - nuh/</p>	<p>skip /SKIHP/</p>	<p>sock /SAHK/</p>
<p>smile /SMI - (y) - uh/</p>	<p>summer /SUH - mer/</p>	<p>suddenly /SUH - dihn - LEEE/</p>

Rule #3

When the letter “s” comes between 2 vowels, it makes the /z/ sound.

season /SEEE - zihn/	easy /EEE - zeee/	busy /BIH - zeee/
reason /REEE - zihn/	visit /VIH - ziht/	music /MYUUU - zihk/
present /PREH - zihnt/	cousin /KUH - zihn/	nosy /NOH - zeee/

Rule #4

When the letter “s” comes before a voiced consonant, it makes the /z/ sound.

cosmic /KAHZ - mihk/	asthma /AEZ - muh/	raspberry /RAEZ - bair - reee/
husband /HUZ - bihnd/	wisdom /WIHZ - duhm/	prism /PRIH - zuhm/
chasm /KAE - zuhm/	metabolism /muh - TAE - buh - LIH - zuhm/	cosmos /KAHZ - mohs/

Rule #5

The letters “se” at the ends of words usually make the /z/ sound.

those /THOHZ/	cheese /CHEEEZ/	phrase /FRAYZ/
cause /KAHZ/	wise /WIZ/	nose /NOHZ/
please /PLEEEZ/	rise /RIZ/	chose /CHOHZ/

Rule #6

When “s” is at the end of a word as part of a grammar concept:
 if the sound before the “s” is voiceless = /s/ sound
 if the sound before the “s” is voiced = /z/ sound

hats /HAETS/	helps /HEHLPS/	dad’s /DAEDZ/
friends /FREHNDZ/	cat’s /KAETZ/	pens /PEHNZ/
boots /BUUUTS/	plays /PLAYZ/	cliffs /KLIHFS/

Rule #7

In noun/verb pairs that contain the letter “s” at the end of the word, nouns typically produce the /s/ sound, and verbs typically produce the /z/ sound

close /KLOHS/	close /KLOHZ/
house /HOWS/	house /HOWZ/
use /YUUUS/	use /YUUUZ/
excuse /ehk - SKYUUS/	excuse /ehk - SKYUUZ/
abuse /uh - BYUUS/	abuse /uh - BYUUZ/

Rule #8

Function words that contain “s” at the end = memorize

has /HAEZ/	as /AEZ/	is /IHZ/
was /WUHZ/	this /THIHS/	these /THEEEZ/
us /UHS/	ours /ARZ/	does /DUHZ/