

S and Z pronunciation

Southern British English (BBC English or RP)

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Download pronunciation mp3s FREE at
www.norwichenglish.co.uk/pron.htm

Remember!
 s is unvoiced
 z is voiced

i:	ɪ	ʊ	u:	ɪə	eɪ		
e	ə	ɜ:	ɔ:	ʊə	ɔɪ	əʊ	
æ	ʌ	a:	ɒ	eə	aɪ	aʊ	
p	b	t	d	tʃ	dʒ	k	g
f	v	θ	ð	s	z	ʃ	ʒ
m	n	ŋ	h	l	r	w	j



[download complete mp3 \(13mins 4.3MB\)](#)

s words [download words mp3 \(4m35s 1.51MB\)](#)

silly, sun, soon, boss, loss, miss, kiss, bliss, this
 Mr (Mister), lost, cost, must, dust, just, justice, salsa
 space, special, start, stop, speak, spot
 slow, snow, scream, scrabble, stream, strap
 extra, Mexico, Texas, taxi, exit*
 anxious, religious, curious, various, succeed, success
 precious, suspicious, vivaciousness

s names: Simon, Stephen, Austin
 Sissy, Beatrice, Esther, Stephanie

z words

Zen, zed, zip, zero, please, cheese, does, doesn't
 lose, Ms (Mizz), size, his, hers, these, those
 exact, exotic, examine, exhibit, exit*
 easy, lazy, crazy, because, booze, zoom, Oslo, music
 amusing, zombies, Zambezi
 observe, Zanzibar

z names: Zebedee, Jesus, Moses, Ozzy
 Elizabeth, Zoë, Teresa

S and Z words

sons, sells, spoons, Zeus, says, seas, sees
 Mrs (Misses), zits, zoos, zooms, Suzanne
 season, sizzle, castles, sneeze, osmosis, exist

Try these sound pairs:

[download sound pairs mp3 \(2m42s 887KB\)](#)

You can also use this as a good listening exercise:
 Play the mp3 and write down which sounds you hear, s or z.

answers ↓				answers ↓			
1	sip	zip	sz	13	ice	eyes	sz
2	seal	zeal	sz	14	lice	lies	sz
3	zed	said	zs	15	braze	brace	zs
4	peace	peas	sz	16	cause	course	zs
5	hiss	his	sz	17	victorious	Victoria's	sz
6	zit	sit	zs	18	prize	price	zs
7	hearse	hers	sz	19	sink	zinc	sz
8	Zoo	Sue	zs	20	abuse (v)	abuse (n)	zs
9	house (v)	house (n)	zs	21	pens	pence	zs
10	use (n)	use (v)	sz	22	close (adj)	close (v)	sz
11	place	plays	sz	23	knees	niece	zs
12	advice (n)	advise (v)	sz	24	exit	exit*	sz

* exit can be pronounced /'egzit/ or /'eksɪt/.

Now try these sentences: [download sentences mp3](#)

Sarah starts a Spanish course on Saturday. (5m34s 1.87M)
 Lizzy loves visiting zebras in Zanzibar.
 Please call the police!
 Steph dances salsa on Sundays.
 Teresa asked Liz for some advice.
 Glasgow is a city close to the west coast of Scotland.
 If you use something, you put it to good use.
 The police observed the seven suspects.
 Close those windows please. It's close to freezing!
 Mr. Zack's seven sons sing some extremely silly songs.
 Isabel's husband was released from prison on
 Tuesday 6th August.
 This is easily the strangest exercise he's seen since the summer.
 His seventeen-year-old son still believes that Santa Claus exists.
 Scientists say they've recently rediscovered a species previously
 considered to be extinct.
 He released the prisoners once he'd realised they were innocent.

Check whether the sound is s or z.

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