

# Pronunciation Puzzle

## An Exercise in Past Tense Forms

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TEACHER

In this activity, students will learn and apply a basic past tense pronunciation rule. This activity should be introduced after students have completed activity 4, “How to say it,” on page 91 of *Spectrum* Book Two.

Make one copy of the following worksheet for each student. Distribute the worksheets. Explain to students that this is a pronunciation puzzle and that the answer is related to how you pronounce certain verbs in their base forms and in the past tense. (If you want to make it more difficult for students, just hand out the puzzle with no explanation.)

Give students approximately ten minutes to fill in the chart and answer the puzzle question. Check that they have filled in the chart correctly (using the answer key provided). Ask them if they have discovered the answer to the puzzle. If they haven't, read the base forms of the verbs out loud to them, emphasizing the sounds at the ends of the words. Ask them to listen carefully to the way you are pronouncing the forms, and to try to guess the answer to the puzzle again. Finally, give the students the answer.

# Pronunciation Puzzle

## Student Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Change the following verbs to the past tense. Next, fill in the chart by placing the past tense verbs in the correct columns according to how they are pronounced. Finally, answer the puzzle question.

rest	afford	watch	want
stay	paint	park	record
raise	flood	save	show
demand	sound	need	mail
cover	answer	cause	use
add			

### Example:

Rest → rested → place under [ed] column

[ed]	[t]	[d]
<i>rested</i>		

### Puzzle:

How are the base forms of the verbs under the [ed] column different from the base forms of the verbs under the [t] and [d] columns?

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## Answer Key

### Answers to Chart:

[ed]	[t]	[d]
rested	watched	stayed
added	parked	raised
wanted	saved	showed
painting	mailed	answered
afforded	covered	used
demanded	caused	
flooded		
needed		
sounded		
recorded		

### Answer to Puzzle:

Regular verbs that end in sounds [t] or [d] in the base form are pronounced with an extra syllable in the past tense.