Three Different Pronunciations for Verbs Ending with "-ed"

The "-ed" ending of regular past tense verbs has three different pronunciations:

/id/ Wanted (sounds like wantid)
/t/ Laughed (sounds like laught)
/d/ Cleaned (sounds like cleand)

Syllables

A syllable is a word or part of a word that can be pronounced.
A syllable always has a vowel sound.

- *Examples of words divided into syllables:*
  - Ex/am/ples of words di/vi/ded in/to syl/la/bles.

Past Tense Pronunciation: /id/ Endings

This ending is only used for verbs ending with a **/t/** or **/d/** sound.
This is the only ending that is pronounced with an extra syllable.

- *Examples of /id/ Endings for Past Tense Verbs:*
  - "want" becomes "wanted" and is pronounced "want/id" (two syllables)
  - "decide" becomes "decided" and is pronounced "de/cide/id" (three syllables)

Past Tense Pronunciation: /t/ and /d/ Endings

Which one should you use?
Put your fingers on your throat and say the verb.

If you don't feel your throat vibrating (unvoiced), use the **/t/** ending.

- *Examples of /t/ Endings for Past Tense Verbs:*
  - "laugh" becomes "laughed" and is pronounced "laught" (one syllable)
  - "finish" becomes "finished" and is pronounced "fi/nisht" (two syllables)

If you feel your throat vibrating (voiced), use the **/d/** ending.

- *Examples of /d/ Endings for Past Tense Verbs:*
  - "clean" becomes "cleaned" and is pronounced "cleaned" (one syllable)
  - "marry" becomes "married" and is pronounced "mar/ried" (two syllables)

Pronunciation Practice

Directions: Read the verbs below. Turn them into regular past tense forms. Then, choose a correct verb ending for pronunciation (id, t or d). Next, draw a line or lines to show how many syllables the verb has. Last, write the number of syllables. Look at the example below:

Base Form	*Past Tense*	*Ending Sound*	*Syllables*	*Number*
want	wanted	/id/	wan/ted	2

Base Form	**Past Tense Form**	**Ending Sound (id, t, d)**	**Syllables / Do not write a / if the word is only 1 syllable**	**Number of Syllables**
need				
walk				
kiss				
clean				
enjoy				
amaze				
disappear				
miss				
visit				
wait				
live				
learn				
shiver				
listen				
call				
cry				
cough				
Write four of your own verbs.				

Finished? Practice reading the past tense forms with a partner.