

### **SOME TIPS ON PHONETICS**

In English there are 20 vowel sounds and 24 consonants. Among these 20 vowels, 8 are diphthongs. A list of these sounds is given in the end of the text book.

Some tips on pronouncing the 's' or 'es': We know that 's' or 'es' is added to make plurals of many nouns and with the verbs in present simple tense for the third person singular. Note the pronunciation of these 's' or 'es'.

- a. Words ending with s, z, sh, ch, dge usually take /es/ and such words are pronounced with an /iz/ sound.  
e.g. buses, chases, face, loses, washes, bushes, churches, watches, catches, matches, lodges, judges, badges.
- b. Words ending with p, t, k, f and th take 's' or 'es' and are pronounced with a /s/ sound.  
e.g. cups, hopes, maps, clamps, peeps, lips, cuts, parts, paints, carts, books, looks, hooks, clocks, breaks, roofs, proofs, months, moths.
- c. Words ending with all other consonants and all the vowels take 's' or 'es' and are pronounced with a /z/ sound.  
e.g. comes, homes, sons, nuns, nibs, rubs, mobs, roads, blades, shades, loads, bags, digs, lungs, rogues, loves, bathes, mouths, needles, pimples, settles, employs, enjoys, plays, flies, boys, goes, cows, ears, tours, chairs, cares, pairs, .....

### **Pronunciation of the Past tense morphemes:**

- a. Verbs ending in p, k, ch, f, th, s, or sh take 'ed' to form the past tense and are pronounced with a 't' sound.  
e.g. stopped, (pronounced as 'stopt') looked, pinched, coughed, kissed, rushed  
'passed' and 'past' are pronounced the same as 'past'.
- b. Verbs ending with 't' or 'd' sound take 'd' or 'ed' to form the Past Tense and are pronounced with an /id/ sound.  
e.g. demanded, wanted
- c. Verbs ending with all other consonants and the vowels take 'd' or 'ed' to form the Past Tense and are pronounced with /d/ sound.  
e.g. enjoyed, tried, combed, armed, canned, shunned, wronged, legged, bridged, loved, breathed, fined, pulled, allowed, mowed, sawed, roared,