



TEACHING FOCUS

Versions 1-5: Awareness of the sounds and spellings of /s/ /z/; /ʃ/ /ʒ/; /w/ /j/; /ɜ:/ /ɜ:/; /əʊ/ /aʊ/

6: Past tense endings /d/ and /t/ linking to a following vowel

MINIMUM LEVEL

Pre-intermediate

ACTIVITY

Going through a maze

WORKSHEETS

PronPack Worksheet 2.2

Print one copy of the required version for each student, or pair of students

AUDIO FILES

Background

The phonemes /s/ and /z/ are familiar-looking symbols. However, they often don't correspond to the letters **s** and **z** as students might expect. For example, in **rise**, the **s** is pronounced /z/, while in **rice** the /s/ is spelt **c**. This kind of mismatch between spelling and sound is what make these puzzles challenging.

Presentation

1. Write the words **rise** and **rice** on the board. Drill the pronunciation asking students to pay attention to the sound of the underlined letters. Explain that these are written /z/ and /s/ in phonetic spellings.
2. If your students have difficulty distinguishing **rise** and **rice**, explain that /z/ is voiced (you can feel the vibration of the throat) while /s/ is unvoiced. Another difference is that vowel sounds before /s/ are shorter than before /z/.

Activity

1. Give out **Version 1** of **Worksheet 2.2** and explain that the objective is to find routes between the opposite corners from **s** to **s**, and then from **z** to **z**. Check vocabulary as necessary.
2. Explain that students can go from any room to a neighbouring room with a connecting door or corridor. They can only pass through a room if the word in it contains the target sound (/s/ or /z/).
3. Go through the first few rooms together as a class (**s – rice – peace – east...**) and then ask students to continue, individually or in pairs.
4. Check through the **answers** together (see **Key**) or ask students to listen to **Audio 2.2-1** and check.

Key

s – rice – peace – east – mouse – lost – price – same – sign – face – box – ski – race – backs – fix – cats – **s**

z – lose – please – desert – rise – lazy – peas – news – ends – nose – phase – dogs – birds – size – bags – rays – (raise) – **z**