

Loose or Lose

The spelling of these two words is very similar, but their pronunciation and meanings are very different.

- loose (adjective): not tight, not firm; not fitting tightly; relaxed
- lose (verb):
 1. be unable to find something
 2. stop having something
 3. fail to win

If something is loose, it is not fixed; it is free and unconstrained. To say this word think of a bird as it rhymes with goose. Look at these examples:

*One of the bicycle's wheels came loose and fell off.
The prisoners have broken loose and are on the run.
Rosy needs to go to the dentist. She's got a loose tooth.
Do you have these jeans in size S? These are M and they're too loose on me.*

Lose rhymes with snooze. It has the idea of failure - failure to keep or get something. The verb lose is irregular = lose - lost - lost

*Put your phone in your pocket or you will lose it.
I've lost my keys.
Our company is losing a lot of customers since we increased our prices.
Felipe has to lose 10kg.*

Note that the noun from the verb lose is loss (plural losses). It rhymes with boss and bosses. Look at these example sentences:

*Last year our company made a profit, but this year we have made a loss.
His dog's death came as a terrible loss to him.*

Now first try and practise the pronunciation then choose the correct form:

- A. Pronunciation It's easy to lose loose change.
Loose change is very easy to lose.
Put your loose change in your pocket or you'll lose it.
- B. Infill If I don't put my keys in my pocket I always _____ them.
If you don't look after your staff you'll _____ them.
My belt's been _____ since I lost 5 kg.
How did the animals get _____ last night?
Has somebody _____ a phone?
So who won and who _____ the match?
Help! There's a panther _____ in the square.