

The endings -cious or -tious

Handy hint: If the root word ends in 'ce', the sound is usually spelt as -cious.

-cious

vicious
precious
conscious
delicious
malicious
suspicious

-tious

ambitious
cautious
fictitious
infectious
nutritious

Exception to the rule: anxious



The endings -cial or -tial

Handy hint: -cial is usually used after a vowel letter and -tial is usually used after a consonant letter.

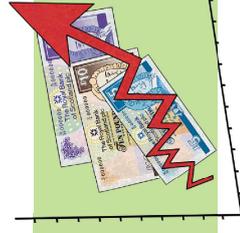
-cial

official
special
artificial

-tial

partial
confidential
essential

Exceptions to the rule: initial, financial,
commercial and provincial



The endings -ant and -ance/-ancy

Handy hint: -ant and -ance/-ancy are normally used if there is a related word ending in -ation.

-ant

observant
expectant
hesitant
tolerant

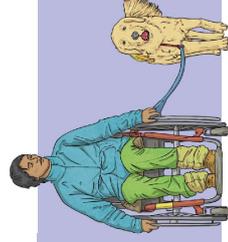
-ance/-ancy

observance
expectance
hesitance
tolerance

-ation

observation
expectation
hesitation
toleration

Exceptions to the rule: You can have assistant, assistance but not assistance.



The endings -ent and -ence/-ency

Handy hint: -ent and -ence/-ency are usually used if there is a soft /c/, soft /g/ or /qu/ sound before it in the word.

-ent

innocent
decent
frequent
confident
independent

-ence/-ency

innocence
decency
frequency
confidence
independence

Exceptions to the rule: obedient turns into obedience

