

Making nouns that end in a 'shun' sound



Many nouns end in a 'shun' sound.
The most common 'shun' endings are -tion and -sion.

A. Nouns ending in -tion



These nouns are often made by adding a suffix to a base word (often a verb).
For example: act - action, deduce - deduction.

Spelling tips for adding -tion

- If the verb ends in a **t** just add -ion. diffract**t** - diffraction.
- Remove a final **e** before adding -tion. interven**e** - intervention.
- Sometimes you must add or remove a vowel before adding -tion.
If you **sound out** the new word you may be able to work out the spelling: add - addition (add an i), register - registration (remove an e).
- Other changes are also possible. For example: evolve - evolution.



Change each verb to a noun that ends in -tion

Add the correct ending to the verbs below.

** You may have to make other changes too (see information box above).*

verb	noun	verb	noun
reduce	reduction	react	reaction
examine	examination	vegetate	
multiply		intercept	
register		adopt	
configure		instruct	
educate		erupt	
satisfy		relate	
consider		part	
imitate		integrate	
edit		relegate	



Change each noun to a verb.

Remove the suffix from the nouns below to leave the related verb.

** You may have to make other spelling changes too. Use a dictionary if needed.*

noun	verb	noun	verb
inflation	inflate	operation	operate
pronunciation	pronounce	congratulations	
selection		plantation	
projection		verification	
addition		interrogation	
subtraction		dedication	
reflection		deduction	
perfection		interpretation	
contraction		retaliation	
conversation		variation	



Writing. Using -tion nouns in context.

Select 4 nouns ending in -tion.

(Look through pages 2 and 3 or choose some new nouns).

Put each noun into an interesting sentence.



Station. Every morning he caught the 9.15 train from Oxford station.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____

B. Nouns ending in -sion



Spelling tips for adding -tion

- If the root word ends in **-se** take off the **e** and add **-ion**. Revise – revision
- If base word ends in **-d** or **-de** change the **d** to an **s**, drop the **e** if needed, then add **-ion**. Erode – erosion, pretend – pretension.

C. Nouns ending in -ssion



Spelling tips

- If you can hear the word **mission** inside the noun it will be spelt with a double **s**. Permission, omission, remission.
- If the base word ends in **-ss** just add **-ion**. Discuss – discussion, possess – possession.



Change each verb to a noun that ends in -sion or -ssion

Add the correct ending to the verbs below.

** You may have to make other changes too (see information box above).*

verb	noun	verb	noun
discuss	☞ discussion	impress	☞ impression
transfuse	☞ transfusion	invade	
progress		intrude	
obsess		televise	
collide		conclude	
corrode		supervise	
confess		permit	



Change each noun to a verb.

Remove the –sion or –ssion suffix from the nouns to make the related verb.

** You may have to make other spelling changes too. Use a dictionary if needed.*

noun	verb	noun	verb
admission	admit	persuasion	persuade
confusion		depression	
expression		inclusion	
provision		exclusion	
omission		division	
decision		remission	



Writing. Using –sion nouns in context.

Select two noun – verb pairs from the completed charts on pages 4 and 5.

Put each verb *and* its related noun into an interesting sentence

** You may have to make spelling changes to the end of the verbs.*



impress (verb) – impression (noun)

He impresses me so much that I think I'll give him a pay rise.

I think I made a good impression during the interview.

admit (verb) – admission (noun)

The children admitted that they had climbed over the fence and chased the sheep.

Admission to the museum is free if you are over sixty.

1a (verb) _____

1b (noun) _____

2a (verb) _____

2b (noun) _____

D. Nouns ending in -cian



Spelling tips

- These nouns often name jobs or hobbies, and show a person's skill.
- If the base word ends in -c just add -ian. Music – musician.
- If the base word ends in -cs remove the -s before adding -ian. Politics - politician, physics – physician.
- Other changes are also possible. E.g. beauty - beautician.



Making -cian words.

Add the correct ending to the root words.

** You may have to make other spelling changes too. Use a dictionary if needed.*

root word	noun	root word	noun
music	musician	statistic	statistician
beauty	beautician	technique	
politics		obstetrics	
magic		optic	
mathematics		electric	
paediatrics		diet	



Words within words

How many words can you find hidden in mathematician?



mathem**atic**ian – mat

mathem**atic**ian – **he**

Can you find six more hidden words inside mathematician?

1. _ _ _ _

4. _ _

2. _ _

5. _ _ _

3. _ _ _ _ _ _ _

6. _ _ _

E. Revision of all nouns ending in a 'shun' sound



Summary and Tips

Cushion and **fashion** are the only two common English words where the **sh** sound at the beginning of the last syllable is actually spelt **-sh**.

So, if the last syllable of a word starts with a **sh** sound **DO NOT WRITE** -sh unless the word is **fashion** or **cushion**!

The most likely endings are shown below (most common first):

- tion (action, friction, caution, perfection and hundreds more words)
- sion (explosion, precision, excursion, mansion, pension, version and about 40 more common words)
- ssion (mission, permission, possession, passion and about 30 more words)
- cian (musician, electrician, technician and about 12 more words)

Other less common 'shun' endings:

- sian (Asian, Persian, Russian, Caucasian)
- xion (complexion, crucifixion)
- cion (suspicion, coercion)
- shion (fashion, cushion) see tip above
- cean (ocean, crustacean)



-sion or -tion?

Add the correct ending (-sion or -tion) to these words.
Use a dictionary if you need to.



C o n v e r s a t i o n

Explo ____

Suc ____

Confu ____

Prepara ____

Crea ____

Revi ____

Competi ____

Popula ____

Divi ____

Conclu ____

Frac ____

Man ____

Despera ____

Por ____

Dona ____

Fu ____

Ver ____

Illu ____

Ac ____

Cap ____



-cian, -sion, -ssion or -tion? Complete the sentences

Add the correct 'shun' ending to the root words below.

** You may have to make other spelling changes too. Use a dictionary if needed.*

- a) She told her son he had two (opt) _____, eat his dinner or go without.
- b) (Act) _____ speak louder than words.
- c) The (optic) _____ said I needed stronger glasses.
- d) We were having a large (extend) _____ built on the back of our house.
- e) His (react) _____ to my son's haircut was not as bad as I expected.
- f) We went to an interesting art (exhibit) _____.
- g) Stop! You're going in the wrong (direct) _____.
- h) She lost all her (possess) _____ in a fire.
- i) He needed a lot of (persuade) _____ before he parted with his money.
- j) We had to ask (permit) _____ before we could use the photocopier.
- k) I have enjoyed our (converse) _____ but I really must do some work.
- l) He came from a big family and had dozens of (relate) _____.
- m) The (music) _____ played my favourite pieces.
- n) Traffic was diverted because of a (collide) _____ on the motorway.
- o) I get a great feeling of (satisfy) _____ when I complete all my work.
- p) There was complete (confuse) _____ when the fire alarm went off.
- q) Would you like to look at my stamp (collect) _____?
- r) We had to call out an (electric) _____ when all the lights went out