

Spelling -se and -ce

It is easy to get confused between nouns and verbs that are spelled almost identically. However, here is a simple rule that will help you with two sound-alike pairs of words.

Rule: Generally, the verb form will be spelled with the "s" and the noun with the "c."

Examples:

advise vs. advice

devise vs. device

Example: She gave us good advice.
Noun meaning *recommendation*.

Example: Please advise us of our options.
Verb meaning *the act of giving a recommendation*.

VERB



DEVI**S**E

ADV**I**S

LIC**E**N**S**E 

PR**A**CT**I**S**E**

NOUN



DEV**I**C**E**

ADV**I**C**E**

LIC**E**N**C**E

PR**A**CT**I**C**E** 



Used for both in US English

sketchplanations

Choose the correct word in the sentences below.

1. They have to device/devise a foolproof plan to make sure she is surprised on her birthday.
2. The dentist has a new device/devise for cleaning teeth.
3. Whoever devised/deviced this dental instrument must not have had very sensitive teeth.
4. I would advice/advise you to allow the hygienist to try it on a few teeth before committing to it.
5. No amount of advice/advise can substitute for experience.