

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

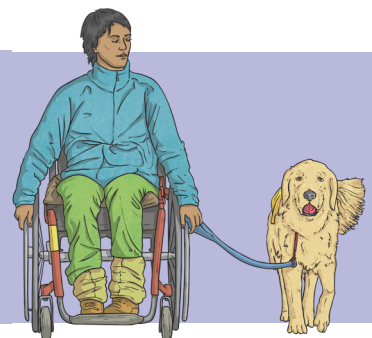
-ance/-ancy

observance
expectance
hesitance
tolerance

-ation

observation
expectation
hesitation
toleration

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



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

