

Mastering Suffixes: -ant, -ance, and -ancy

Learning objective: To accurately spell words ending in -ant, -ance, and -ancy by understanding their root structures and applying spelling rules.

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of root words to determine the correct suffix. Pay close attention to how the spelling changes when a suffix is added.

Word bank: hesitant · hesitance · hesitancy · tolerant · tolerance · tolerancy · observant · observance · observancy · vacant · vacancy

1. Max the monkey is calculating the number of empty seats in the cinema. If a seat is not occupied, it is 'vacant'. Write the noun form of this word that describes the state of having empty seats. (1 mark)

2. Pip the caterpillar is watching a ceremony. She notices everyone is being very respectful. Using the root word 'observe', explain the difference in meaning between being 'observant' and performing an 'observance'. (3 marks)

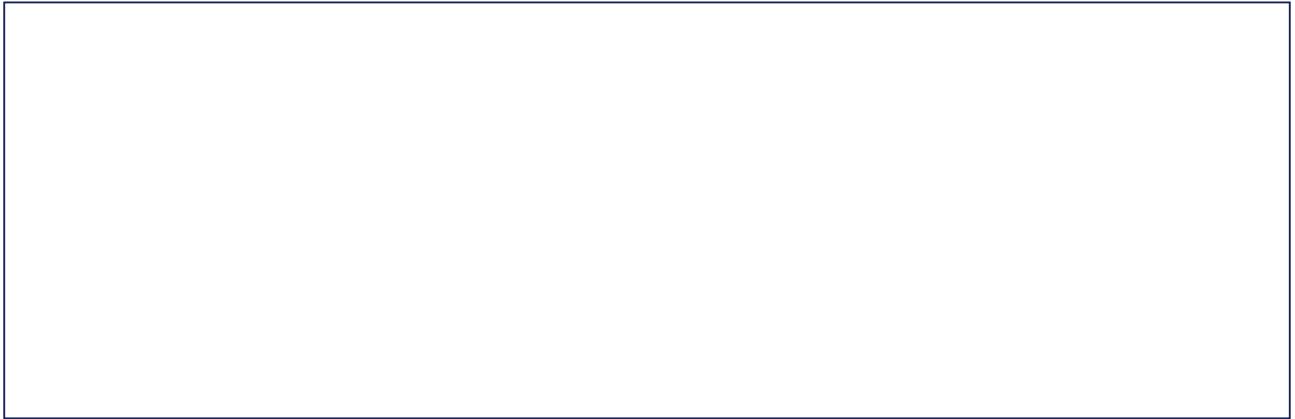
3. Zara the zebra is painting a pattern. She is unsure about her color choice and feels 'hesitant'. Change the adjective 'hesitant' into its corresponding noun form (the quality of being hesitant). (1 mark)

4. Compare and contrast the suffixes -ance and -ancy. Can you identify a rule for when a word might take one suffix over the other? Justify your answer with examples. (4 marks)

5. Kit the fox needs to write a report on 'tolerance'. He has misspelled it as 'tolerence'. Correct his spelling and explain why the suffix is -ance rather than -ence in this instance. (3 marks)

6. What might happen if you incorrectly identify the root word when adding a suffix? Create a sentence using a word ending in -ancy that demonstrates its correct usage in a formal context. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene where Kit the fox and Pip the caterpillar are working in a library. Label the scene using three words from the word bank that describe their behavior or the environment.



Extension challenge: Research the etymology of the suffix -ant. Write a short paragraph explaining its origins in Latin and how it helps us determine if a word is an adjective or a noun.