



Suffixes:

Confusable Suffixes: -able/-ible, -ant/-ent, -tion/-sion

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- The museum is ___ from Monday to Saturday.
a) accessable
b) accessible
c) accesseble
d) accessuble
- She is an ___ student who always gets top marks.
a) excellant
b) excellint
c) excellunt
d) excellent
- The head teacher made the ___ to close the school early.
a) decition
b) decision
c) decision
d) decision
- Is this jacket ___ in the washing machine?
a) washable
b) washible
c) washeble
d) washuble
- There is a ___ difference between the two products.
a) signifcent
b) significant
c) significint
d) significunt
- We watched a fascinating ___ programme about sharks.
a) televidion
b) televition
c) television
d) televistion
- I'm afraid that plan is simply not ____.
a) feasible
b) feausible
c) feasible
d) feaseble
- The new employee showed great ___ in learning the company systems.
a) competance
b) competince
c) competunce
d) competence
- We had a heated ___ about climate change.
a) discution
b) discucion
c) discustion
d) discussion
- Everyone should show ___ towards people from different cultures.
a) tolerance
b) tolerence
c) tolerince
d) tolerunce
- Her handwriting is barely ___ — I can hardly read it.
a) legable
b) legeble
c) legible
d) leguble



Answers

1. b) accessible
2. d) excellent
3. c) decision
4. a) washable
5. b) significant
6. c) television
7. c) feasible
8. d) competence
9. d) discussion
10. a) tolerance
11. c) legible
12. b) important
13. d) construction
14. a) reliable
15. d) recollection
16. b) comparable
17. a) relevant
18. b) explosion
19. c) possible
20. a) patience



Explanations

1. “accessible” (b)

The correct spelling is 'accessible' with -ible. Words from Latin roots ending in -ss often take -ible (accessible, permissible, admissible).

2. “excellent” (d)

The correct spelling is 'excellent' with -ent. The verb 'excel' forms the adjective with -ent. The related noun is 'excellence' (-ence).

3. “decision” (c)

The correct form is 'decision' with -sion. Verbs ending in '-de' (decide) typically form nouns with -sion (decide → decision, divide → division, collide → collision).

4. “washable” (a)

The correct spelling is 'washable' with -able. When a complete English word can stand alone (wash), we usually add -able. The suffix -ible is typically used with Latin roots that cannot stand alone.

5. “significant” (b)

The correct spelling is 'significant' with -ant. This comes from the Latin verb 'significare'. The related noun is 'significance' (-ance).

6. “television” (c)

The correct form is 'television' with -sion. Verbs and roots ending in '-se' or containing the /ʒ/ sound typically use -sion (televise → television, revise → revision).

7. “feasible” (c)

The correct spelling is 'feasible' with -ible. The root 'feas-' cannot stand alone as a complete English word, so we use -ible rather than -able.

8. “competence” (d)

The correct spelling is 'competence' with -ence. The adjective 'competent' ends in -ent, so the noun takes -ence. Adjective-noun pairs: -ent → -ence, -ant → -ance.

9. “discussion” (d)

The correct form is 'discussion' with -ssion. Verbs ending in '-ss' (discuss) form nouns with -ssion (discuss → discussion, permit → permission, admit → admission).

10. “tolerance” (a)

The correct spelling is 'tolerance' with -ance. The adjective 'tolerant' ends in -ant, so the noun takes -ance. Remember: -ant → -ance, -ent → -ence.

11. “legible” (c)

The correct spelling is 'legible' with -ible. The root 'leg-' (from Latin 'legere', to read) cannot stand alone, so we use -ible.

12. “important” (b)

The correct spelling is 'important' with -ant. The related noun is 'importance' (-ance). This comes from the Latin verb 'importare'.

13. “construction” (d)

The correct form is 'construction' with -tion. Verbs ending in '-ct' (construct) typically form nouns with -tion (construct → construction, instruct → instruction, protect → protection).

14. “reliable” (a)

The correct spelling is 'reliable' with -able. The verb 'rely' is a complete English word, so we use -able. Note the spelling change: y → i before -able (rely → reliable).

15. “recollection” (d)

The correct form is 'recollection' with -tion. The verb 'recollect' ends in '-ct', so the noun uses -tion.

16. “comparable” (b)

The correct spelling is 'comparable' with -able. The verb 'compare' is a complete English word, so we use -able. We drop the silent 'e' before adding -able.

17. “relevant” (a)

The correct spelling is 'relevant' with -ant. Be careful not to confuse the vowels: it is relev-ANT, not relev-ENT. The noun form is 'relevance'.

18. “explosion” (b)

The correct form is 'explosion' with -sion. The verb 'explode' ends in '-de', which typically produces -sion nouns (explode → explosion, erode → erosion).

19. “possible” (c)

The correct spelling is 'possible' with -ible. The root 'poss-' (from Latin 'posse') cannot stand alone as a complete English word, so we use -ible.

20. “patience” (a)

The correct spelling is 'patience' with -ence. The adjective 'patient' ends in -ent, so the noun takes -ence. This is one of the most commonly misspelled words in English.