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Lessons 1-5



Lesson 1: Do we spell with “cial” as in “social” or with “tial” as in “essential”?

Rule Spell with “cial” after a vowel as in “social” and with “tial” after a consonant as in “essential.”

Details The “cial” and “tial” endings occur in approximately **38** words.

Practice**vowel + cial in 11 words**

| | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------|
| fa·cial | ra·cial | gla·cial | of·fi·cial |
| ben·e·fi·cial | ar·ti·fi·cial | su·per·fi·cial | ju·di·cial |
| spe·cial | cru·cial | so·cial | |

consonant + tial in 20 words

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| res·i·den·tial | pres·i·den·tial | cre·den·tial | pru·den·tial |
| con·fi·den·tial | po·ten·tial | ex·is·ten·tial | in·flu·en·tial |
| ref·er·en·tial | es·sen·tial | se·quen·tial | con·se·quen·tial |
| sub·stan·tial | cir·cum·stan·tial | ex·pe·ri·en·tial | par·tial |
| mar·tial | nup·tial | pre·nup·tial | tan·gen·tial |




Exceptions: Memorize these seven exceptions—the word “controversial” contradicts all the rules because it is spelled with an “s.”

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|-----------|
| fi·nan·cial | com·mer·cial | pro·vin·cial | in·i·tial |
| spa·tial | pa·la·tial | con·tro·ver·sial | |



Read the above 38 words aloud as many times as needed until you memorize their spelling.

 Copy these words and do not try to guess their spelling. Look at each word before you begin to copy it and do not look away from it until you are 100% confident that you can spell it:

facial

racial

glacial

official

beneficial

artificial

superficial

judicial

special

crucial

social

residential

presidential

credential

prudential

confidential

potential

existential

influential

referential

essential

sequential

consequential

substantial

circumstantial

partial

martial

nuptial

prenuptial

financial

commercial

provincial

initial

spatial

palatial


controversial

initially

controversially

potentially

experiential

 Fill in the blanks using the endings “cial” or “tial” or “sial”:

so _ _ _ _

essen _ _ _ _

spe _ _ _ _

fa _ _ _ _

offi _ _ _ _

substan _ _ _ _

creden _ _ _ _

residen _ _ _ _

artifi _ _ _ _

consequen _ _ _ _

ra _ _ _ _

poten _ _ _ _

confiden _ _ _ _

circumstan _ _ _ _

cru _ _ _ _

pruden _ _ _ _

gla _ _ _ _

referen _ _ _ _

benefi _ _ _ _

influen _ _ _ _

judi _ _ _ _

nup _ _ _ _

par _ _ _ _

mar _ _ _ _

prenup _ _ _ _

spa _ _ _ _

pala _ _ _ _

ini _ _ _ _

finan _ _ _ _

commer _ _ _ _

provin _ _ _ _

contraver _ _ _ _

so _ _ _ _ ly

essen _ _ _ _ ly

spe _ _ _ _ ly

offi _ _ _ _ ly

par _ _ _ _ ly

ini _ _ _ _ ly

finan _ _ _ _ ly

commer _ _ _ _ ly

commer _ _ _ _ ized

existen _ _ _ _

existen _ _ _ _ ism

existen _ _ _ _ ist

cru _ _ _ _ ly

congen _ _ _ _



Lesson 2: Do we spell with “**f**” as in “**font**,” “**ph**” as in “**geography**,” or “**gh**” as in “**enough**”?

Rule •The letter “**f**” is not allowed long words, and if a word is long (more than one or two syllables) as in “**geography**,” then the sound of “**f**” is spelled with a “**ph**.” Note that the origin of the “**ph**” is derived from the Greek language. •As in “**enough**,” the “**gh**” that sounds like an “**f**” occurs in approximately **seven** words.

Practice

gh occurs in 7 words

e·nough

tough

rough

cough

laugh

slough

trough

sough

The following **39** words are examples of a countless number of long words that contain a “**ph**.” Remember that the “**f**” is not allowed in long words:

ge·og·ra·**phy**

phi·los·o·**phy**

bi·og·ra·**phy**

au·to·bi·og·ra·**phy**

a·pos·tro·**phe**

pe·ri**ph**·er·al

hy·**phen**·at·ed

nep**h**·ew

at·mos·**phere**

eu·**phe**·mism

phy·si·cian

Phi·la·del·**phi**·a

Phi·lip·pine

am·**phib**·i·an

am·**phi**·the·a·ter

so·**phis**·ti·cat·ed

graph·**ics**

el·e·**phant**

phar·ma·cy

phar·ma·cist

al·**pha**·bet

em·**pha**·size

em·**pha**·sis

sym·**pho**·ny

pho·nol·o·gy

pho·bic

phon·ics

pho·net·ic

pho·neme

met·a·**phor**

pho·to·graph

tri·um**ph**

par·a·graph**ph**

pam·**phlet**

oph·thal·mol·o·gy

dip**h**·thong

schiz·o·**phre**·ni·a

par·a·**phrase**

Eu·**phra**·tes



Exceptions: The following **21** words are exceptions because they are relatively long, yet spelled with an “f,” not with a “ph.” Either memorize these words or know that the stem “fer” is Latin, not Greek and we do not use a “ph” in Latin words. In addition, the “f” in these words may be followed by a consonant as in “**f**luency,” while the “ph” is normally followed by a vowel except in the three words **p**hrase, schizop**h**renia, and Eup**h**rates. Note that in this book a long word means a word that has more than one or two syllables.

f occurs in 21 relatively long words

re·**f**erpre·**f**ertrans·**f**er**f**el·o·ny**f**em·i·nine**f**i·nite**f**i·del·i·tyin·**f**ant**f**a·nat·ic**f**ab·u·lous**f**a·cil·i·tate**f**am·i·ly**f**an·ta·sy**f**al·la·cy**f**an·tas·tic**f**am·inecom·**f**ort**f**u·gi·tive**f**u·ri·ous**f**ur·ni·ture


ref·uge



Read all the above words aloud as many times as needed until you memorize their spelling.



Make a copy of page 16, which is a lined page, and then copy all the above words in lesson 2. Know that anytime you are asked to copy words, do not try to guess their spelling. Instead, look at each word before you begin to copy it and do not look away from it until you are 100% confident that you can spell it.

 Fill in the blanks using f, ff, ph, or gh:

photogra _ _

sym _ _ ony

sa _ e

cou _ _

_ _ armacist

geogra _ _ y

enou _ _

_ ree

_ _ ysician

Christo _ _ er

al _ _ abet

ele _ _ ant

_ _ iloso _ _ y

lau _ _

_ _ onics

meta _ _ or

paragra _ _

autobiogra _ _ y

tou _ _

_ ew

ne _ _ ew

so _ _ isticated

Je _ _

am _ _ itheater

am _ _ ibian

trans _ er

_ _ ase

com _ _ ort

rou _ _

mu _ _ ler

schizo _ _ renia

para _ _ rase

di _ _ icult

Ste _ _ anie

rou _ _

hy _ _ en

_ ont

pre _ _ er

pre _ _ erred

re _ _ erence

pre _ _ erence

_ ur

_ urniture

_ antastic

_ abulous

cou _ _ ing

lau _ _ ing

rou _ _ ly

stu _ _

stu _ _ ed

stu _ _ ing



Lesson 3: Do we spell with **tion** as in **nation**, **sion** as in **expression**, or **cian** as in **musician**?

Rule •**cian**: As in “music**ian**,” we use “**cian**” in approximately **17** words that describe a person’s profession or hobby. •**sion**: We use “**sion**” in approximately **27** words that already end with an “**ss**” as in **express**→**expression** and in **10** other words that contain the word “**mission**” as in “**admission**.” •**tion**: We use “**tion**” in the rest of such words as in “**action**.”

Details Spell with “**tion**” as is “**nation**” **99%** of the time, spell with “**sion**” as in “**expression**” in **47** words, and spell with “**cian**” as in “**musician**” in **16** words.

Practice

cian occurs in 17 words

music**c**→music**ian**

electric**c**→electric**ian**

politic**c**→politic**ian**

mathematic**c**→mathematic**ian**

arithmetic**c**→arithmetic**ian**

pediatric**c**→pediatric**ian**

clinic**c**→clinic**ian**

techni**que**→technic**ian**

diet→dieti**cian**

magic**c**→magic**ian**

physic**c**→physic**ian**

statistic**c**→statistic**ian**

logic**c**→logic**ian**

optic**c**→optic**ian**

obstetric**c**→obstetric**ian**

practic**e**→patri**cian**

beauty→beauti**cian**

sion occurs in 47 words

express**ss**→express**ion**

oppress**ss**→oppress**ion**

repress**ss**→repress**ion**

suppress**ss**→suppress**ion**

aggress**ss**→aggress**ion**

congress**ss**→congress**ional**

impress**ss**→impress**ion**

depress**ss**→depress**ion**

progress**ss**→progress**ion**

regress**ss**→regress**ion**

egress**ss**→egress**ion**

recess**ss**→recess**ion**

process**ss**→process**ion**

access**ss**→access**ion**

obsess**ss**→obsession**ion**

profess**ss**→profession**ion**

possess**ss**→possession**ion**

concuss**ss**→concussion**ion**

compass**ss**→compassion**ion**

session**ion**

success**ss**→success**ion**

excess**ss**→exc**ision**

confess**ss**→confession**ion**

profess**ss**→profession**al**

discuss**ss**→discussion**ion**

pass**ss**→pass**ion**

percussion**ion**

concession**ion**

Memorize nine words that contain the word “**mission**”:

mission

ad**mission**

inter**mission**

trans**mission**

em**ission**

re**mission**

com**mission**

com**missioner**

per**mission**

Eight of these words are preceded by “en” and two are preceded by “an”:

ten·**sion**

in·ten·**sion**

ex·ten·**sion**

pre·ten·**sion**

pen·**sion**

ap·pre·hen·**sion**

com·pre·hen·**sion**

di·men·**sion**

man·**sion**

ex·pan·**sion**



Exceptions

sus·pi·**cion**

com·plex·**ion**

fa·**shion**

o·**cean**

tion for the rest of such words

na·**tion**

co·op·er·a·**tion**

im·mi·gra·**tion**

con·sid·er·a·**tion**

var·i·a·**tion**

veg·e·ta·**tion**

con·ver·sa·**tion**

ap·pli·ca·**tion**

ev·o·lu·**tion**

mo·**tion**

au·di·**tion**

su·per·sti·**tion**

con·ven·**tion**

auc·**tion**

fic·**tion**

in·duc·**tion**

in·struc·**tion**

a·dop·**tion**

i·mag·i·na·**tion**

cor·po·ra·**tion**

in·te·gra·**tion**

con·grat·u·la·**tions**

e·val·u·a·**tion**

in·ter·pre·ta·**tion**

im·mu·ni·za·**tion**

com·mu·ni·ca·**tion**

pol·lu·**tion**

e·mo·**tion**

ad·di·**tion**

in·ten·**tion**

in·ter·ven·**tion**

di·rec·**tion**

frac·**tion**

de·duc·**tion**

per·fec·**tion**

por·**tion**

op·er·a·**tion**

sep·a·ra·**tion**

reg·is·tra·**tion**

re·la·**tion**

mo·ti·va·**tion**

ad·ap·ta·**tion**

ed·u·ca·**tion**

dis·trib·u·**tion**

cau·**tion**

pro·mo·**tion**

co·a·li·**tion**

in·ven·**tion**

ac·**tion**

at·trac·**tion**

sanc·**tion**


sub·trac·**tion**

ex·cep·**tion**

di·ges·**tion**



Read all the above words aloud as many times as needed until you memorize their spelling.

 Copy these words and do not try to guess their spelling. Look at each word before you begin to copy it and do not look away from it until you are certain that you can spell it:

musician

magician

politician

physician

electrician

statistician

mathematician

logician

arithmetician

optician

obstetrician

pediatrician

patrician

technician

beautician

dietician

expression

impression

oppression

depression

repression

progression

suppression

regression

aggression

egression

congressional

recession

procession

succession

accession

excision

obsession

confession

profession

obsession


possession

discussion

concussion

passion

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| compassion | percussion | session | concession |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| mission | admission | intermission | transmission |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| emission | remission | commission | commissioner |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| permission | tension | intension | extension |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| pretension | pension | apprehension | comprehension |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| dimension | mansion | expansion | missionary |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| suspicion | complexion | complexions | ocean |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| nation | imagination | operation | cooperation |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| corporation | application | interpretation | immigration |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

 Fill in the blanks using “tion,” “cian,” or “sion”:

magi _ _ _ _

mis _ _ _ _

musi _ _ _ _

expres _ _ _ _

logi _ _ _ _

confes _ _ _ _

impres _ _ _ _

applica _ _ _ _

tradi _ _ _ _

subtrac _ _ _ _

oppres _ _ _ _

depres _ _ _ _

repres _ _ _ _

electri _ _ _ _

discus _ _ _ _

physi _ _ _ _

mathemati _ _ _ _

admis _ _ _ _

exten _ _ _ _

politi _ _ _ _

pediatri _ _ _ _

obstetri _ _ _ _

transmis _ _ _ _

techni _ _ _ _

beauti _ _ _ _

dieti _ _ _ _

progres _ _ _ _

mis _ _ _ _ ary

commis _ _ _ _

reces _ _ _ _

aggres _ _ _ _

egres _ _ _ _

intermis _ _ _ _

profe _ _ _ _

emis _ _ _ _

remis _ _ _ _

permis _ _ _ _

obses _ _ _ _

posses _ _ _ _

compas _ _ _ _

concus _ _ _ _

percus _ _ _ _

ten _ _ _ _

pen _ _ _ _

dimen _ _ _ _

man _ _ _ _

excep _ _ _ _

expan _ _ _ _



Lesson 4: We spell the sound of “**sion**” as in “**vision**” with “**sion**.”

Rule The ending “**sion**” as in “**vision**” has a special sound, which is different from the sound of “**sion**” as in “**expression**.” When you hear yourself saying this special sound of “**sion**” as in “**vision**,” spell it with “**sion**.”

Details The “**sion**” as in “**vision**” occurs in approximately **38** words and a few of these words have to do with seeing “visual” through the eyes as in “television” or through the mind as in “envision.”

Practice

vi·**sion**

tel·e·vi·**sion**

en·vi·**sion**

re·vi·**sion**

su·per·vi·**sion**

di·vi·**sion**

de·ci·**sion**

in·ci·**sion**

pre·ci·**sion**

col·li·**sion**

con·fu·**sion**

dif·fu·**sion**

in·fu·**sion**

trans·fu·**sion**

con·clu·**sion**

in·clu·**sion**

ex·clu·**sion**

pre·clu·**sion**

in·tru·**sion**

il·lu·**sion**

e·lu·**sion**

de·lu·**sion**

ex·plo·**sion**

e·ro·**sion**

cor·ro·**sion**

oc·ca·**sion**

in·va·**sion**

e·va·**sion**

ab·ra·**sion**

le·**sion**

ver·**sion**

a·ver·**sion**

in·ver·**sion**

sub·ver·**sion**

sub·mer·**sion**

con·ver·**sion**

im·mer·**sion**

ex·cur·**sion**

[Per·**sion**]

Read aloud the above 39 words in Lesson 4 and then use **one** copy of page 16 to copy all the words that you read.



Lesson 5: Do we spell with “**ege**” as in “col**lege**” or “**age**” as in “cabb**age**”?

Rule The “**ege**” as in “col**lege**” is in approximately **three** words and the ending “**age**” as in “cabb**age**” is in the rest of such words.

Practice

ege occurs in 3 words

col·**lege**

priv·i·**lege**

cor·**tege**

age for the rest of such words

lan·**guage**

cab·**bage**

bag·**gage**

mort·**gage**

dam·**age**

rum·**mage**

man·**age**

or·phan·**age**

sav·**age**

sal·**vage**

post·**age**

hos·**tage**

short·**age**

out·**age**

volt·**age**

foot·**age**

front·**age**

her·i·**tage**

cot·**tage**

ad·van·**tage**

pack·**age**

wreck·**age**

mile·**age**

vil·**lage**

car·ti·**lage**

ban·**dage**

ad·**age**

sau·**sage**

mes·**sage**

mas·**sage**

pas·**sage**

us·**age**

av·er·**age**

cov·er·**age**

lev·er·**age**

for·**age**

hem·or·rh**age**

cour·**age**


dis·cour·**age**


cour·**age**·ous

car·**riage**

mar·**riage**

Note: These three words contain a silent **d**: knowl·**edge**, ac·knowl·**edge**, car·**tridge**

 Read aloud the above 48 words in Lesson 5 and then use **one** copy of page 16 to copy the same words that you read.

 Fill in the blanks using “age” or “ege”:

langu _ _ _

cabb _ _ _

coll _ _ _

mortg _ _ _

privil _ _ _

dam _ _ _

man _ _ _

salv _ _ _

post _ _ _

short _ _ _

herit _ _ _

advant _ _ _

pack _ _ _

marri _ _ _

vill _ _ _

saus _ _ _

carri _ _ _

mess _ _ _

mass _ _ _

aver _ _ _

discour _ _ _

cour _ _ _ ous

cour _ _ _ ously

privil _ _ _ s

pack _ _ _ s

advent _ _ _ s

advent _ _ _ ous

knowl _ d _ _

acknowl _ d _ _

acknowl _ d _ _ ment

