**Spellings – ‘ence’ and ‘ance’**

These two endings are both used to make nouns from [verbs](https://www.lexico.com/grammar/verbs-hub) (e.g. performance from perform) or nouns from [adjectives](https://www.lexico.com/grammar/adjectives-hub) (e.g. intelligence from intelligent).

**Words ending in ‘ence’**

* If the word is formed from a verb ending in *-ere*, then the ending will be spelled *-ence*. For example: *reverence* (from *revere*), *adherence* (from *adhere*), or *coherence* (from *cohere*).

Note that the word *perseverance* is an exception to this rule!

If the word has ‘vid’, ‘cid’ and ‘fid’ in it, then the suffix is ence. E.g evidence, coincidence, confidence

* If the main part of the word ends in a soft *c* (pronounced like the *c* in *cell*) or a soft *g* (pronounced like the *g* in *gin*), then the ending will be *-ence*. For example: *adolescence* or *emergence*.

Note that the word *vengeance* is an exception to this rule!

**Words ending in ‘ance’**

* If the word is formed from a verb that ends in *-y, -ure*, or *-ear*, then the ending will be spelled *-ance*. For example: *alliance* (from *ally*), *endurance* (from *endure*), or *appearance* (from *appear*)
* If the main part of the word (i.e. the bit before the ending) ends in a ‘hard’ *c* (pronounced like the *c* in *cab*) or a ‘hard’ *g* (pronounced like the *g* in *game*), then the ending will be spelled *-ance*. For example: *elegance* or *significance*.
* If the noun is related to a verb ending in *-ate*, then the ending is likely to be *-ance*, e.g. *tolerance* (from *tolerate*)

**Words to learn**

circumstance adolescence

guidance convenience

resemblance recurrence

nuisance coherence

appearance emergence

tolerance insistence