

## Suffixes 2

### Shun sounds

Many words end with a 'shun' sound, which can be spelled in several ways.

#### -tion and -sion

The most common 'shun' suffix is **-tion**. **-sion** is often used where the base word ends in **d** or **de**, or **s** or **se**. These suffixes are often used when you form nouns from verbs:

**explode** → **explosion**  
**confuse** → **confusion**

**subtract** → **subtraction**  
**introduce** → **introduction**

Can you form nouns from these verbs by adding the correct suffix, either **-tion** or **-sion**? Remember to make any other changes that are needed when you add the suffix, such as removing letters from the end of the word. The first one has been done for you.

We must **abolish** these taxes. The \_\_\_\_\_ **abolition** \_\_\_\_\_ will start next year.

The dodgems are going to **collide**! There will be a \_\_\_\_\_.

I **dedicate** this book to you. I'll write the \_\_\_\_\_ at the start.

I'm staying in to **revise** for my exams. I must do my \_\_\_\_\_.

The army is going to **invade**. When will the \_\_\_\_\_ be?

The aliens are going to **abduct** him. Tell the papers about the \_\_\_\_\_!

We will **demolish** the towers. People can come and watch the \_\_\_\_\_.

#### -ation, -etion, -ition, -otion and -ution

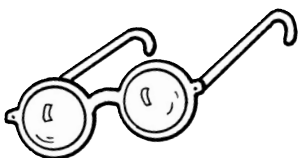
'Shun' often follows a vowel sound as **-ation**, **-etion**, **-ition**, **-otion** or **-ution**. Where a base word has a clearly pronounced vowel, the same vowel sound is often heard in the new word. Say these words out loud to hear the similarities:

**educate** → **education**  
**promote** → **promotion**

**dilute** → **dilution**  
**complete** → **completion**

'Shun' suffixes can be useful for making up rhymes, as the vowel sound plus the 'shun' ending gives you a good choice of words. For example, the **-otion** sound lets you rhyme *lotion*, *commotion* and *ocean*, while **-ition** gives rhymes like *superstition*, *mathematician* and *definition*. This limerick uses the **-ician** ending. Can you make up any limericks using rhyming 'shun' sounds?

There once was a bright young optician,  
Who wanted to become a magician,  
But his spells went so wrong,  
That he made up a song,  
And now he's a famous musician.



**-cian**

If you are changing a word which ends in **-ic**, **-ics** or **-ical**, you often add the suffix **-cian** to make the 'shun' sound. This often relates to people's occupations:

**electric** → **electrician**

**mathematics** → **mathematician**

Use the **-cian** suffix to work out what these people do for a living. The first one has been done for you.



- I deal with facts, figures and **statistics**. statistician
- I perform **magic** tricks and shout 'Abracadabra!' \_\_\_\_\_
- I play a **musical** instrument in a large orchestra. \_\_\_\_\_
- I work in the **paediatrics** department at the hospital. \_\_\_\_\_
- I'm in the government, so I work in **politics**. \_\_\_\_\_

Turn the words in bold type into words with a 'shun' suffix. Remember to use the right one!

There was a **collide** \_\_\_\_\_ with another car. Dad had a **confront** \_\_\_\_\_ with the other driver, who shouted that Dad should see an **optic** \_\_\_\_\_. Dad said he drove with **considerate** \_\_\_\_\_ but he had a furious **express** \_\_\_\_\_ on his face. He said it would need a **magic** \_\_\_\_\_ to fix it, not a mechanic.



There are other, less common ways of spelling 'shun'. Can you think of any words which end with these 'shun' sounds:

**-sian**

**-tian**

**-cion**

**-xion**

**-cean**

The **-cian** suffix often relates to people's occupations. Another suffix that often relates to jobs or occupations is **-ist**.

**archaeology** → **archaeologist**

**physics** → **physicist**

**cartoons** → **cartoonist**

**tattoos** → **tattooist**

Now use the **-ist** suffix to work out what these people do for a living:



- I try to turn metals into gold using the science of **alchemy**. \_\_\_\_\_
- I write a gossip **column** for the local newspaper. \_\_\_\_\_
- I perform tricks using **hypnotism** in my circus act. \_\_\_\_\_
- I write **lyrics** to accompany music for a famous pop star. \_\_\_\_\_
- I work at the local hospital in the **physiotherapy** department. \_\_\_\_\_