

Words ending in a “shun” sound, like attention

- The sound **shun** is never spelt with **sh** except in the words **fashion** and **cushion**
- -cian is only ever used for people magician, beautician (see below)
- 85% of words ending in a **shun** sound end in **-tion**. If not sure how to spell it always try **-tion**.
- The **-tion** suffix comes to English from French through Latin.
- Only the vowel **I** has a short sound before **-tion**. A E O and U are always long vowel sounds

To take a good guess at how the word is spelt, think of the root word from which it comes, e.g.

Words ending in **-ct** will usually end in **-ction**

react	→	reaction	<i>note the sound changes to kshun</i>
object	→	objection	

Word ending in **-te** drop the **-e** and add **-ion**

ignite	→	ignition	<i>note the change to a short i sound</i>
relate	→	relation	

Words ending in **-it**, drop the **-it** and add **-ission**

omit	→	omission	
submit	→	submission	

Words ending in **-ive** drop the **-ive** and add **-ution**

evolve	→	evolution	
resolve	→	resolution	

Words ending in **-ess**, usually add just **-ion**

confess	→	confession	
digress	→	digression	

The **zhun** sound is usually spelt **-sion** rather than **-tion**

Words ending in **-d** or **-de** usually end in **-sion**

collide	→	collision	<i>note change to a short i sound</i>
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Words ending in **-ert** usually drop the **-t** and add **-sion**

convert	→	conversion	
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Professions that end in a **shun** sound are always spelt **-cian**

music → *musician* *electric* → *electrician* *technic* → *technician* *optic* → *optician*

Making nouns that end in a "shun" sound

Does the word end in *-tion, sion, etc* ?

Add the correct "shun" ending to the root words below. You may have to make other changes to the spelling when adding one of these suffixes.

1. I told my son he had two (opt) _____: eat his dinner or go without.
2. We were late because of a (divert) _____ around the town centre.
3. The (optic) _____ said I needed stronger glasses.
4. We were having a large (extend) _____ built on the back of our house.
5. My (react) _____ to my daughter's tattoo was not as bad as she expected.
6. We went to an interesting art (exhibit) _____ at the new gallery.
7. Stop! You're going in the wrong (direct) _____.
8. She lost all her (possess) _____ in a fire.
9. He needed a lot of (persuade) _____ before he parted with his money.
10. We had to ask (permit) _____ before we could use the photocopier.
11. I have enjoyed our (converse) _____ but I really must go now.
12. He came from a big family and had dozens of (relate) _____.
13. The (music) _____ played my favourite songs.
14. Traffic was diverted because of a (collide) _____ on the motorway.
15. There was complete (confuse) _____ when the fire alarm went off.
16. Would you like to look at my stamp (collect) _____?
17. We had to call out an (electric) _____ when all the lights went out
18. (Ascend) _____ Day is an important event in the Christian calendar.
19. Charles Darwin was famous for his theories on (evolve) _____.
20. I have made a (decide) _____! We are going to France for our holiday.