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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## 6 Minute Vocabulary

### Suffixes: -ment, -ance, -ence



*This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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#### Catherine

Hello and welcome to 6 Minute Vocabulary. I'm Catherine...

#### Finn

And I'm Finn. Today we're talking about suffixes.

#### Catherine

A suffix is a group of letters at the end of a word, which can tell you what kind of word it is. In today's programme we're looking at **-ment**, spelt **m-e-n-t**, **-ance** spelt **a-n-c-e**, and **-ence**, spelt **e-n-c-e**.

#### Finn

The last two sound quite similar, don't they?

#### Catherine

They do.

#### Finn

**-ance** and **-ence**. But first, let's hear from Tania. She loves to dance. She's talking about her recent visit to the ballet.

#### Catherine

That's right. While you listen, think about this question: Did Tania enjoy the ballet in the end?

#### INSERT

There was huge **excitement** in the audience. This was the Bolshoi's only **performance** of Swan Lake in London. But at half past seven a man appeared and made an **announcement**. He thanked us for our **patience** and then said that the lead dancer was ill and couldn't **perform**. In the **silence** that followed, you could feel everyone's **disappointment**. But the **replacement** dancer was wonderful. She wasn't too **confident** to start with, but her **confidence** grew and, in the end, the lead dancer's **absence** didn't lessen my **enjoyment** at all.

**Catherine**

So we asked you: Did Tania enjoy the ballet in the end?

**Finn**

And the answer was: Yes, she did. The lead dancer's **absence** didn't lessen her **enjoyment**.

**Catherine**

And **absence** and **enjoyment** are two key words in this programme. The noun **absence** with the suffix **-ence**, spelt **e-n-c-e**, means someone or something not being there. It comes from the adjective **absent**.

**Finn**

... and the noun **enjoyment** with the suffix **-ment** comes from the verb **enjoy**.

**Catherine**

Let's listen to a clip with more words with **-ment** and **-ence**, spelt **e-n-c-e**.

**INSERT CLIP I**

In the **silence** that followed, you could feel everyone's **disappointment**. But the lead dancer's **replacement** was wonderful. She wasn't too **confident** to start with, but her **confidence** grew.

**Finn**

So we had two nouns with the suffix **-ence**, spelt **e-n-c-e**: **silence** and **confidence**. The noun **silence** comes from the adjective **silent** and meaning complete quiet.

**Catherine**

...and the noun **confidence**, which comes from the adjective **confident**, means having belief in your own abilities.

**Finn**

Notice that both adjectives end in the letter **t**, which changes to a letter **c** in the suffix **-ence**.

**Catherine**

So **silent** becomes **sil-ence**...

**Finn**

...and **confident** becomes **confid-ence**.

**Catherine**

Other common adjectives ending in the letter **t** that add **e-n-c-e** are: **independent** and **different**...

**Finn**

...which become **independence** and **difference**.

**Catherine**

In the clip, we also heard two more words with the suffix **-ment**.

**Finn**

Yes, we heard **disappointment**, which comes from the verb **disappoint**, meaning a feeling of being unhappy because you have been let down.

**Catherine**

...and **replacement** which comes from the verb **replace** and means a thing or person which takes the place of something or someone else.

**Finn**

Now, let's hear another clip. Listen out for two words with the suffixes **-ance** with an **a** and **-ence** with an **e**.

## **INSERT CLIP 2**

There was huge **excitement** in the audience. This was the Bolshoi's only **performance** of Swan Lake in London. But at half past seven a man appeared and made an **announcement**. He thanked us for our **patience** and then said that the lead dancer was ill and couldn't perform.

**Finn**

So we had the noun **performance**, spelt **a-n-c-e** at the end, which comes from the verb **perform**.

**Catherine**

And we had **patience**, spelt **e-n-c-e** at the end, from the adjective **patient**.

**Finn**

Did you spot the two words with the suffix **-ment**? **Excitement** from the verb **excite**...

**Catherine**

...and **announcement** from the verb **announce**.

## **IDENT**

You're listening to BBC Learning English.

**Catherine**

Now, time for a quiz. And ready for number one? Is the word **silence** spelt a) s-i-l-e-n-c-e or b) s-i-l-a-n-c-e?

**Finn**

It's a) s-i-l-e-n-c-e.

**Catherine**

Very good. Number two: What's the noun that comes from the verb replace?

**Finn**

It's **replacement**.

**Catherine**

And, number three: Complete this sentence: Maria lacks a) confident or b) confidence?

**Finn**

It's b) **confidence**. And that's the end of the quiz. Well done if you got them all right.

**Catherine**

And now, here's today's top tip for learning vocabulary: choose a word and then think of all the different forms of that word, so think of a noun, adjective and verb with the same root.

**Finn**

There's more about this at [bbclearningenglish.com](http://bbclearningenglish.com). Join us again for more 6 Minute Vocabulary.

**Both**

Bye!

## Vocabulary points to take away

### Nouns ending in -ment:

#### enjoyment

process of feeling pleasure in something

*Don't tell me the ending! That will spoil my enjoyment of the film.*

#### replacement

someone or something that takes the place or does the job of another

*Our new TV didn't work so they sent a replacement.*

### Other nouns ending in -ment:

#### announcement

#### disappointment

#### excitement

### Nouns ending in -ence:

#### absence

the state of not being there

*There has been high staff absence this last week due to flu.*

#### confidence

the belief in your own or someone else's abilities

*I have complete confidence that you will do a great job.*

#### independence

the state of being free of control by someone or something else

*Teenagers like to have jobs so they can have some financial independence from their parents.*

#### patience

the ability to wait or do something for a long time without getting annoyed

*My parents have a lot of patience. They don't mind queuing for hours to get tickets to their favourite shows.*

### Other nouns ending in -ence:

#### difference

#### silence

### Nouns ending in -ance:

#### performance