


Words ending in -ant, -ance, -ancy, -ent, -ence and -ency

Use -ant and -ance/-ancy if there is a related word with a /æ/ or /e?/ sound in the right position; -ation endings are often a clue. Use -ent and -ence/-ency after soft c (/s/ sound), soft g (/dʒ/ sound) and qu, or if there is a related word with a clear /ʔ/ sound in the right position.

Cut this top row off before you give the sort to pupils!

There are many words, however, where the above guidelines don't help. These words just have to be learnt.

Start with an open sort and then sort according to word classes.		
observant	observance	observation
expectant	expectation	hesitant
hesitancy	hesitation	tolerant
tolerance	toleration	substance
substantial	innocent	innocence
decent	decency	frequent
frequency	confident	confidence

confidential	apparent	conscience
existence	hindrance	nuisance
convenience	obedient	obedience
independent	independence	expect