



Rule 25: cious / tious



Teacher information

- This teaching resource is organised into four sections: **1)** Explanation of the rule **2)** Examples of key words that fit the rule **3)** Opportunities to practise **4)** Further examples of commonly used words following the rule & some notable exceptions.
- These slides are intended as a starting point for teaching this rule. The lists of words given at the end might be used for card sorting exercises or a variety of spelling games.



1) Rule 25: Explanation

The 'shus' sound at the end of a word is usually spelt 'cious' or 'tious'.

'tious' is often used if the root word would take the suffix 'tion' in its **noun** form.

'cious' is often used if the root word ends in 'ce'.

Some words just have to be learnt!

vice > vicious grace > gracious

infectious (infection) cautious (caution)

2) Rule 25: Examples

THINK: Does the root word end in 'ce'? – **cious**

Can the root word have a 'tion' ending? – **tious**

gracious

delicious

nutritious

infectious

ambitious

malicious

cautious

spacious

scrumptious

THINK: Which words **DON'T** fit these rules?

3) Rule 25: Practice

THINK: Does the root word end in 'ce'? – **cious**
Can the root word have a 'tion' ending? – **tious**

Starter

gra _____

ambi _____

infec _____

spa _____

Challenge 1

nutri _____

mali _____

deli _____

cau _____

Challenge 2

conten _____

pre _____

scrump _____

atro _____

CHALLENGE: Think of a word that ends in 'xious' instead.

4) Rule 25: Further examples

- cious

gracious
vicious
spacious
malicious
delicious
ferocious
precious
officious
audacious
atrocious
conscious
suspicious
precocious

- tious

ambitious
cautious
infectious
nutritious
pretentious
repetitious
superstitious
contentious

fictitious (from fiction)

*scrumptious (no
corresponding noun
ending in 'tion')*

Exceptions

The only word with a 'cious' ending that has a noun that ends with the 'shun' sound is 'suspicious', however this is spelt 'cion' not 'tion': suspicion.

Other exceptions are:

anxious
noxious

NOTE: Some of the more common words ending in 'cious' have root words ending in 'ce'. Others just have to be learnt.