



## Academic English Countable and Uncountable Words from the Same Root

The words and expressions below come from the same root but have different grammar. Decide which are countable and add "a"/ "an" to them and decide which are uncountable and add "some" to them. There is always a combination on each line. As you are labelling, you might find some patterns that can help you with later examples and to recheck previous guesses.

- \_\_\_ adaptability/ \_\_\_ adaptation  
\_\_\_ advocacy/ \_\_\_ advocate  
\_\_\_ assistance/ \_\_\_ assistant  
\_\_\_ brevity/ \_\_\_ brief  
\_\_\_ clarification/ \_\_\_ clarity  
\_\_\_ complex/ \_\_\_ complexity  
\_\_\_ conformist/ \_\_\_ conformity  
\_\_\_ consultant/ \_\_\_ consulting  
\_\_\_ consumer/ \_\_\_ consumption  
\_\_\_ cooperation/ \_\_\_ cooperative  
\_\_\_ coordinate/ \_\_\_ coordination/ \_\_\_ coordinator  
\_\_\_ couple/ \_\_\_ coupling  
\_\_\_ creation/ \_\_\_ creativity  
\_\_\_ cycle/ \_\_\_ recycling  
\_\_\_ definability/ \_\_\_ definition  
\_\_\_ deregulation/ \_\_\_ regulation  
\_\_\_ document/ \_\_\_ documentation  
\_\_\_ equivalence/ \_\_\_ equivalent  
\_\_\_ expert/ \_\_\_ expertise  
\_\_\_ export/ \_\_\_ exportation  
\_\_\_ facilitation/ \_\_\_ facilitator/ \_\_\_ facility  
\_\_\_ finance/ \_\_\_ financier/ \_\_\_ financing  
\_\_\_ function/ \_\_\_ functionality  
\_\_\_ identification/ \_\_\_ identity  
\_\_\_ image/ \_\_\_ imagery  
\_\_\_ immigrant/ \_\_\_ immigration  
\_\_\_ implement/ \_\_\_ implementation  
\_\_\_ individual/ \_\_\_ individualism/ \_\_\_ individualist/ \_\_\_ individuality  
\_\_\_ legislation/ \_\_\_ legislature  
\_\_\_ liberal/ \_\_\_ liberalisation  
\_\_\_ location/ \_\_\_ relocation  
\_\_\_ mediation/ \_\_\_ mediator  
\_\_\_ occupancy/ \_\_\_ occupant/ \_\_\_ occupation  
\_\_\_ participant/ \_\_\_ participation  
\_\_\_ predictability/ \_\_\_ prediction  
\_\_\_ prioritisation/ \_\_\_ priority  
\_\_\_ process/ \_\_\_ processing  
\_\_\_ professional/ \_\_\_ professionalism  
\_\_\_ radical/ \_\_\_ radicalisation



\_\_\_\_\_ research/ \_\_\_\_\_ researcher  
\_\_\_\_\_ respondent/ \_\_\_\_\_ response/ \_\_\_\_\_ responsiveness  
\_\_\_\_\_ sequence/ \_\_\_\_\_ sequencing  
\_\_\_\_\_ structure/ \_\_\_\_\_ restructuring  
\_\_\_\_\_ supervision/ \_\_\_\_\_ supervisor  
\_\_\_\_\_ survival/ \_\_\_\_\_ survivor  
\_\_\_\_\_ symbol/ \_\_\_\_\_ symbolism  
\_\_\_\_\_ uniform/ \_\_\_\_\_ uniformity

*Compare your answers with the answer key. (Ones given without “some” are uncountable but don’t often take that word)*

*Which suffixes often show uncountable nouns (= at least two examples above)? Why?*

*Are there any exceptions to those patterns (e.g. in the list above)?*

*Which suffixes often show countable nouns (= at least two examples above)? Why?*



adaptability/an adaptation  
advocacy/ an advocate  
some assistance/ an assistant  
brevity/ a brief  
a clarification/ some clarity  
a complex/ some complexity  
a conformist/ some conformity  
a consultant/ consulting  
a consumer/ consumption  
some cooperation/ a cooperative  
a coordinate/ some coordination/ a coordinator  
a couple/ coupling  
a creation/ some creativity  
a cycle/ some recycling  
definability/ a definition  
some deregulation/ a regulation  
a document/ some documentation  
equivalence/ an equivalent  
an expert/ some expertise  
an export/ exportation  
facilitation/ a facilitator/ a facility  
some finance/ a financier/ some financing  
a function/ functionality  
identification/ an identity  
an image/ some imagery  
an immigrant/ some immigration  
an implement/ implementation  
an individual/ individualism/ an individualist/ individuality  
some legislation/ a legislature  
a liberal/ liberalisation  
a location/ relocation  
some mediation/ a mediator  
occupancy/ an occupant/ an occupation  
a participant/ some participation  
predictability/ a prediction  
prioritisation/ a priority  
a process/ some processing  
a professional/ professionalism  
a radical/ some radicalisation  
some research/ a researcher  
a respondent/ a response/ responsiveness  
a sequence/ sequencing  
a structure/ some restructuring  
some supervision/ a supervisor  
survival/ a survivor  
a symbol/ some symbolism  
a uniform/ uniformity

### **Suggested answers to the language analysis questions**

Which suffixes often show uncountable nouns (= at least two examples above)?

- ation
- cy
- ing
- ism
- ity
- tion

Why?

They are abstract nouns

Are there any exceptions? Many, for example:

An adaptation

A clarification

A creation

A facility

Which suffixes often show countable nouns (= at least two examples above)?

- ist
- ant
- er/ or
- al

Why?

Because they mean people, or in the case of “-al” because they are adjectives used to refer to people