



The Suffix -ANT



Word List

The Suffix -ANT (Meaning)

The suffix -ant is combined with words to make adjectives that mean - *that is or does something*

The **adjective significant** means something that signifies. **Significant** is made from the **verb** signify.

- The birth of my daughter was the most **significant** event in my life.

The suffix -ant is also used to form new **nouns** that mean - *a person or thing that*

An **assistant** is a person that assists.

- Wanda has worked as a dental **assistant** for 11 years.

The Suffix -ANT (An Easy Guide)

- Verbs that end in -ate often use the suffix -ant to indicate a person or thing that performs an action. For example, dominate becomes **dominant**, deviate becomes **deviant**, and stimulate becomes **stimulant**.
- Verbs that end in -y often drop the y and add **-iant** to indicate a person or thing that performs an action. For example, defy becomes **defiant**, and comply becomes **compliant**.
- Nouns ending in -ANCE will sometimes have an adjective form that ends with -ANT. For example, brilliance becomes **brilliant**, and relevance becomes **relevant**.

NOTE There are exceptions and irregularities to these rules, and some words may follow different patterns. However, understanding these basic rules can help you identify and understand many words that use the suffix "-ant."

Verb	Noun - person/thing does verb
consult	consultant - an expert who consults
relax	relaxant - a drug that makes the body relax
Verb ending in -ATE	New -ANT Adjective
dominate <u>te</u>	dominant
stimulate <u>te</u>	stimulant
Verbs that end in -y	Drop the (y) and add an (i)
defy	becomes defiant
comply	becomes compliant
Nouns ending with -ANCE	New -ANT Adjective
brilliance	becomes brilliant
releva <u>nce</u>	becomes relevant

The Suffix -ANT (Real Examples)

Adjectives

[abundant](#) - existing in large quantities; more than enough

- There is **abundant** wildlife in the forest behind my school.

[arrogant](#) - behaving in a proud, unpleasant way, showing little thought for other people

- Don't be **arrogant** and think you're better than everyone else.

[brilliant](#) - extremely clever or impressive/very intelligent or showing a lot of skill/(of light or colors) very bright

- Mason's **brilliant** idea helped our group win the science fair.

[buoyant](#) - floating, able to float, or able to keep things floating

- A good life jacket will help you stay **buoyant** if the boat goes under.

[cognizant](#) - having knowledge or understanding of something

- You need to be **cognizant** of the rules before you start playing the game.

[compliant](#) - in agreement with a set of rules

- It's important to be **compliant** with the school dress code.

[defiant](#) - openly refusing to obey somebody/something, sometimes in an aggressive way

- The **defiant** student refused to follow the teacher's instructions.

[deviant](#) - different from what most people consider to be normal and acceptable

- His **deviant** behavior got him in trouble with the law.

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[distant](#) - far away in space or time

• My time at summer camp was never enjoyable, now it's just a **distant** memory.

[dominant](#) - more important, powerful, or easy to notice than other things

• The lion is a **dominant** predator in the African savanna.

[elegant](#) - (of people or their behavior) attractive and showing a good sense of style

• She wore an **elegant** dress to the formal dance.

[inelegant](#) - not attractive

• Eating with your mouth open is an **inelegant** habit.

Learn the prefix **in-** and more @ [9 Common Negative Prefixes \(200 examples, Free PDF, Video\)](#)

[errant](#) - doing something that is wrong; not behaving in an acceptable way

• An **errant** soccer ball sailed over the fence and hit a car parked on the street.

[extravagant](#) - spending a lot more money or using a lot more of something than you can afford or than is necessary

• He spent an **extravagant** amount of money on his new car.

[exuberant](#) - full of energy, excitement, and happiness

• The **exuberant** puppy wagged its tail and licked our faces.

[flippant](#) - showing that you do not take something as seriously as other people think you should

• She made a **flippant** comment that hurt her friend's feelings.

[fire-retardant](#) - that makes a fire burn more slowly

• The walls of the safe are made with **fire-retardant** materials.

[hesitant](#) - slow to speak or act because you feel uncertain, embarrassed or unwilling

• He was **hesitant** to try the new food but ended up loving it.

[ignorant](#) - not having or showing much knowledge or information about things; not educated/with very bad manners

• Some people are **ignorant** about the struggles of others who are different from them.

[malignant](#) - (of a tumor or disease) that cannot be controlled and is likely to cause death

• Unfortunately, the tests showed that the tumor was **malignant**.

[migrant](#) - (of a person) moving from one place to another in order to find work or better living conditions

• This part of the country has a large seasonal **migrant** population, who only work during the harvest months in autumn.

[mutant](#) - (of a living thing) different in some way from others of the same kind because of a change in its genetic structure

• Scientists have found a **mutant** strain of the virus that can resist vaccinations.

[observant](#) - good at noticing things around you

• The **observant** detective noticed a hidden clue that helped solve the case.

[pleasant](#) - fun, attractive, or giving pleasure/friendly and polite

• The weather was **pleasant** today. It was the perfect day to spend in the park.

[unpleasant](#) - not pleasant or comfortable

• The smell of rotten eggs was very **unpleasant** and made us feel sick.

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[predominant](#) - most obvious or easy to notice

• In most parts of the world, English is the **predominant** language spoken in business

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and education.

[pursuant](#) - according to or following something, especially a rule or law

• **Pursuant** to the school's dress code, male students must always wear a tie and jacket.

[radiant](#) - showing great happiness, love or health/giving a warm bright light

• The sun was **radiant** and bright in the clear blue sky.

[relevant](#) - closely connected with the subject you are discussing or the situation you are in

• My interviewer asked me if I had any relevant experience that would help me do the job.

[irrelevant](#) - not important to or connected with a situation

• Our boss ignored Peter's **irrelevant** question and continued with the meeting.

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[reliant](#) - needing somebody/something in order to survive, be successful, etc.

• The organization is **reliant** on charitable donations.

[reluctant](#) - hesitating before doing something because you do not want to do it or because you are not sure that it is the right thing to do

• Once in custody, the suspect was **reluctant** to answer any questions.

[repentant](#) - feeling or showing that you are sorry for something wrong that you have done

• The **repentant** thief returned the stolen items and apologized for his actions.

[unrepentant](#) - showing no shame about your actions or beliefs

• The **unrepentant** criminal showed no remorse for his crimes.

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[resistant](#) - not affected by something; able to resist something

• New antibiotics are always being developed to fight drug-**resistant** bacteria.

Common compound words with resistant -

[heat-resistant](#)

[water-resistant](#)

[resonant](#) - (of sound) deep, clear, and continuing for a long time

• The **resonant** sound of the drum echoed throughout the room.

[resultant](#) - caused by the thing that has just been mentioned

• Members of the government believe that after lowering taxes the **resultant** increase in consumer spending will boost the economy.

[significant](#) - large or important enough to have an effect or to be noticed

• The test results were excellent and showed a **significant** improvement in the students' abilities.

[insignificant](#) - not big or valuable enough to be considered important

• We shouldn't waste time on issues that are **insignificant**.

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[tolerant](#) - able to accept what other people say or do even if you do not agree with it

• A good leader is **tolerant** of different ideas from their citizens.

[intolerant](#) - (disapproving) not willing to accept ideas or ways of behaving that are different from your own

• The **intolerant** are weak and feel the need to make fun of others who were different from them.

[triumphant](#) - very successful in a way that causes great pleasure

• The team was **triumphant** and celebrated their victory with a parade down Main street.

[vacant](#) - (of a seat, hotel room, house, etc.) empty; not being used

• The hotel room was **vacant** and available for guests to rent.

[variant](#) - slightly different in form or type from something else

• The artist created a **variant** version of the painting with a darker color scheme.

[vigilant](#) - very careful to notice any signs of danger or trouble

• The **vigilant** security guard kept watch to ensure everyone's safety.

Nouns

[accountant](#) - a person whose job is to keep or check financial accounts

• My mom works as an **accountant** at a big company.

[antidepressant](#) - a drug used to treat the illness depression

• Some people take **antidepressant** medication to help with their mood.

[antiperspirant](#) - a substance that people use, especially under their arms, to prevent or reduce sweat

• I need to wear **antiperspirant** to stay dry during gym class.

[applicant](#) - a person who makes a formal request for something (= applies for it), especially for a job, a place at a college or university, etc.

• Diane was a strong **applicant** for the scholarship.

[assailant](#) - a person who attacks somebody, especially physically

• The police caught the **assailant** after a long chase.

[assistant](#) - a person who helps or supports somebody, usually in their job

• My teacher's **assistant** helped me with my math homework. He is very kind.

[attendant](#) - a person whose job is to serve or help people in a public place

• The flight **attendant** gave us snacks and drinks on the plane.

[claimant](#) - a person who claims something because they believe they have a right to it

• The **claimant** argued that the car accident was the other driver's fault and that the other driver should pay the repair costs.

[combatant](#) - a person or group involved in fighting in a war or battle

• The **combatants** fought bravely in the war.

[non-combatant](#) - a member of the armed forces who does not actually fight in a war, for example an army doctor

Learn the prefix **non-** and more @ [The Suffix -ANCE \(52 Real Examples, Video, Free PDF\)](#)

Learn more @ [No None and Non – Learn the difference \(50 examples + PDF\)](#)

• Doctors and nurses are **noncombatants** who help the wounded in the war.

[complainant](#) - a person who makes a formal complaint against somebody in court

• The **complainant** accused his neighbor of damaging his fence.

[confidant](#) - a person that you trust and who you talk to about private or secret things

• I told my best friend, who is my **confidant**, about my secret crush.

[consultant](#) - a person who knows a lot about a particular subject and is employed to give advice about it to other people

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- A marketing **consultant** gave us advice on how to increase our sales.
- contaminant** - a substance that makes something impure
- **Contaminants** in the water made it unsafe to drink.
- contestant** - a person who takes part in a contest or competition
- The **contestant** sang a beautiful song and won first place in the competition.
- coolant** - a liquid that is used for cooling an engine, a nuclear reactor, etc.
- The **coolant** in the car's engine helps to regulate its temperature.
- debutant** - a person who is making their first public appearance, especially in sport or films
- She was nervous about her **debutant** ball, but it ended up being a lot of fun.
- decongestant** - a medicine that helps somebody with a cold to breathe more easily by unblocking their nose
- My **decongestant** helped me breathe better when I had a bad cold.
- Learn the prefix **de-** @ [110 Words with The Prefix DE- \(Free 8-page PDF + Video\)](#)
- defendant** - the person in a trial who is accused of committing a crime, or who is being sued by another person
- The **defendant** was found guilty of the crime and sentenced to jail.
- deodorant** - a substance that people put on their bodies to prevent or hide unpleasant smells
- I need to put on **deodorant** after my shower so I don't smell bad.
- dependant** - a person, especially a child, who depends on another person for a home, food, money, etc. *NOTE - This word is also spelled **dependent**, especially in North America.
- I've been taking care of my little brother for the past year so I can list him as a **dependent** on my tax return.
- descendant** - a person's descendants are their children, their children's children, and all the people who live after them who are related to them
- My grandmother loves to tell stories about our family's **descendants** who came to America on a ship.
- deviant** - a person who behaves differently from what most people consider to be normal and acceptable
- Prisons are supposed to keep law-abiding citizens safe from criminal **deviants**.
- disinfectant** - a substance that kills bacteria, used for cleaning
- We used **disinfectant** to clean the kitchen after cooking chicken. Raw chicken has lots of dangerous bacteria.
- emigrant** - a person who leaves their country to live permanently in another
- My grandfather was an **emigrant** who left Europe to start a new life in Canada.
- entrant** - a person or group that has recently joined a profession, university, business, etc./a person or an animal that enters a race or a competition; a person that enters an exam
- The **entrants** submitted their artwork to the school art competition.
- expectant** - used to describe somebody who is going to have a baby soon or become a father
- The **expectant** mother was excited to welcome her new baby.

[hydrant](#) - a pipe in the street through which water can be sent using a pump in order to put out fires or to clean the streets

• It's illegal to park your car in front of a fire **hydrant**. It makes it difficult for firemen to connect their hoses in case of a fire.

[immigrant](#) - a person who has come to live permanently in a different country from the one they were born in

• My ancestors were **immigrants** who came to America in search of a better life.

[informant](#) - a person who gives secret information about somebody/something to the police or the media

• The **informant** told the police about the criminal's plans.

[inhabitant](#) - a person or an animal that lives in a particular place

• The **inhabitants** of the small town knew each other by name.

[irritant](#) - a substance that makes part of your body painful

• A chemical **irritant** from the lab got on the technician's skin causing a rash.

[litigant](#) - a person who is making or defending a claim in court

• The **litigant** hired a lawyer to represent him in court.

[lubricant](#) - a substance, for example oil, that you put on surfaces or parts of a machine so that they move easily and smoothly

• Charlie sprayed some **lubricant** on the door hinge to stop it from squeaking.

[merchant](#) - a person who buys and sells goods in large quantities, especially one who imports and exports goods

• The **merchant** sold all kinds of goods at the market.

[migrant](#) - a person who moves from one place to another in order to find work or better living conditions

• Our country needs to open its borders to skilled **migrants** willing to come here and work.

[militant](#) - a person who uses, or is willing to use, force or strong pressure to achieve their aims, especially to achieve social or political change

• The **militant** group protested against the government's policies.

[mutant](#) - a living thing with qualities that are different from its parents' qualities because of a change in its genetic structure

• Scientists created a **mutant** of the protein in the lab.

[occupant](#) - a person who lives or works in a particular house, room, building, etc.

• The **occupant** of the house was not home when the fire started.

[oxidant](#) - a substance that makes another substance combine with oxygen

• The **oxidant** in the fruit turns brown when it is exposed to air.

[antioxidant](#) - a substance such as vitamin C or E that removes dangerous molecules, etc., such as free radicals from the body

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• **Antioxidant**-rich foods like blueberries are good for your health.

[participant](#) - a person who is taking part in an activity or event

• All of the **participants** were given a certificate for finishing the race.

[pollutant](#) - a substance that pollutes something, especially air, and water

• Cars emit **pollutants** that harm the environment.

[refrigerant](#) - a chemical substance used in the refrigeration process

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- A **refrigerant** is usually a liquid that is used to absorb heat from the air around it.
- relaxant** - a drug that is used to make the body relax
- I took a muscle **relaxant** and it immediately started to make me sleepy.
- remnant** - a part of something that is left after the other parts have been used, removed, destroyed, etc.
- The **remnants** of the meal were wrapped up and stored in the refrigerator for later use.
- sealant** - a substance that is put onto a surface to stop air, water, etc. from entering or escaping from it
- **Sealant** is used to fill gaps and prevent leaks in the roof.
- servant** - a person who works in another person's house, and cooks, cleans, etc. for them
- The King's **servant** helped prepare dinner and clean the house.
- stimulant** - a drug or substance that makes you feel more active and gives you more energy
- Caffeine is a **stimulant** that can increase alertness and energy.
- tyrant** - a person who has complete power in a country and uses it in a cruel and unfair way
- The company was run by a **tyrant** who treated his employees poorly and showed no regard for their well-being or job satisfaction.
- variant** - a thing that is a slightly different form or type of something else
- Rugby is a **variant** of soccer that began in England.

Did you know?

From the 14th and 15th centuries, various forms of "folk" or "mob" football were played. Two versions of this game emerged: one in which the ball was maneuvered with the legs and feet and one in which the ball was picked up and carried. These games were notable for being particularly violent. It was not unusual to see fighting, broken limbs, and sometimes even death during one of these matches.

The Suffix -ANT FAQ (Frequently Asked Question)

What's the difference between the suffixes -ant and -ance?

The suffix -ant is combined with words to make adjectives that mean - *that is or does something*

Example **significant** (something that signifies)

"The birth of my daughter was the most **significant** event in my life."

The suffix -ANCE is used to create nouns to mean the action or state of.

-ance suffix (in **nouns**) the action or state of

Example: **performance** (The action of *performing*)

"I won the match but I wasn't happy with my **performance**."

The suffixes **-ant** and **-ance** are connected in one way. The **suffix -ant** changes **nouns** that end with **-ance** into **adjectives**.

Example: the noun **relevance** becomes the adjective **relevant** when you change the suffix.

Learn more about the suffix -ANCE at my blog post here >> [The Suffix -ANCE \(52 Real Examples, Video, Free PDF\)](#)



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