

accommodate	embarrass	persuade
accompany	environment	physical
according	equip (-ped, -ment)	prejudice
achieve	especially	privilege
aggressive	exaggerate	profession
amateur	excellent	programme
ancient	existence	pronunciation
apparent	explanation	queue
appreciate	familiar	recognise
attached	foreign	recommend
available	forty	relevant
average	frequently	restaurant
awkward	government	rhyme
bargain	guarantee	rhythm
bruise	harass	sacrifice
category	hindrance	secretary
cemetery	identity	shoulder
committee	immediate(ly)	signature
communicate	individual	sincere(ly)
community	interfere	soldier
competition	interrupt	stomach
conscience*	language	sufficient
conscious*	leisure	suggest
controversy	lightning	symbol
convenience	marvellous	system
correspond	mischievous	temperature
criticise (critic + ise)	muscle	thorough
curiosity	necessary	twelfth
definite	neighbour	variety
desperate	nuisance	vegetable
determined	occupy	vehicle
develop	occur	yacht
dictionary	opportunity	
disastrous	parliament	

Not many common words end like this.

If the root word ends in -ce, the /ʃ/ sound is usually spelt as c – e.g. *vice* – *vicious*, *grace* – *gracious*, *space* – *spacious*, *malice* – *malicious*.

Exception: *anxious*.

vicious, precious, conscious, delicious, malicious, suspicious, ambitious, cautious, fictitious, infectious, nutritious

adorable/adorably  
(adoration),  
applicable/applicably  
(application),  
considerable/considerably  
(consideration),  
tolerable/tolerably  
(toleration)  
changeable, noticeable,  
forcible, legible

dependable, comfortable,  
understandable,  
reasonable, enjoyable,  
reliable

possible/possibly,  
horrible/horribly,  
terrible/terribly,  
visible/visibly,  
incredible/incredibly,  
sensible/sensibly

aisle: a gangway between seats (in a church, train, plane).

isle: an island.

aloud: out loud.

allowed: permitted.

affect: usually a verb (e.g. *The weather may affect our plans*).

effect: usually a noun (e.g. *It may have an effect on our plans*). If a verb, it means 'bring about' (e.g. *He will effect changes in the running of the business*).

altar: a table-like piece of furniture in a church.

alter: to change.

ascent: the act of ascending (going up).

assent: to agree/agreement (verb and noun).

bridal: to do with a bride at a wedding.

bridle: reins etc. for controlling a horse.

cereal: made from grain (e.g. breakfast cereal).

serial: adjective from the noun *series* – a succession of things one after the other.

compliment: to make nice remarks about someone (verb) or the remark that is made (noun).

complement: related to the word *complete* – to make something complete or more complete (e.g. *her scarf complemented her outfit*).

advice/advise  
device/devise  
licence/license  
practice/practise  
prophecy/prophesy

farther: further

father: a male parent

guessed: past tense of the verb *guess*

guest: visitor

heard: past tense of the verb *hear*

herd: a group of animals

led: past tense of the verb *lead*

lead: present tense of that verb, or else the metal which is very heavy (*as heavy as lead*)

morning: before noon

mourning: grieving for someone who has died

past: noun or adjective referring to a previous time (e.g. *In the past*) or preposition or adverb showing place (e.g. *he walked past me*)

passed: past tense of the verb 'pass' (e.g. *I passed him in the road*)

precede: go in front of or before

proceed: go on

descent: the act of descending (going down).

dissent: to disagree/disagreement (verb and noun).

desert: as a noun – a barren place (stress on first syllable); as a verb – to abandon (stress on second syllable)

dessert: (stress on second syllable) a sweet course after the main course of a meal.

draft: noun – a first attempt at writing something; verb – to make the first attempt; also, to draw in someone (e.g. *to draft in extra help*)

draught: a current of air.

doubt, island, lamb,  
solemn, thistle, knight

official, special, artificial,  
partial, confidential,  
essential

referring, referred, referral,  
preferring, preferred,  
transferring, transferred  
reference, referee,  
preference, transference

co-ordinate, re-enter,  
co-operate, co-own

deceive, conceive, receive,  
perceive, ceiling

ought, bought, thought,  
nought, brought, fought

rough, tough, enough

cough

though, although, dough

through

thorough, borough

plough, bough

observant, observance,  
(observation), expectant  
(expectation), hesitant,  
hesitancy (hesitation),  
tolerant, tolerance  
(toleration), substance  
(substantial)

innocent, innocence,  
decent, decency, frequent,  
frequency, confident,  
confidence (confidential)

assistant, assistance,  
obedient, obedience,  
independent,  
independence

principal: adjective – most  
important (e.g. *principal  
ballerina*) noun – important  
person (e.g. *principal of a  
college*)

principle: basic truth or belief  
profit: money that is made in  
selling things

prophet: someone who  
foretells the future

stationary: not moving

stationery: paper, envelopes  
etc.

steal: take something that  
does not belong to you

steel: metal

wary: cautious

weary: tired

who's: contraction of *who is*  
or *who has*

whose: belonging to  
someone (e.g. *Whose jacket  
is that?*)