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" or "an" to them and decide which are uncountable and add "some" to those. There is always a combination on each line, e.g. two countable and one uncountable. As you as labelling, you might find some patterns that can help you with later examples and to recheck previous guesses.

Compare your answers with the answer key. (Ones given without "some" are uncountable but don't often take that word).

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

Why are words with those suffixes usually uncountable?

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 are words with those suffixes usually countable?

--------------------cover, fold or cut--------------------

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.

_____ 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

- adaptabil**ity**/an adapta**tion**
- advoca**cy/ an** advocate
- some assist**ance/ an** assist**ant**
- brev**ity/ a** brief
- a clarifica**tion**/ some clar**ity**
- a complex/ some complex**ity**
- a conform**ist**/ some conform**ity**
- a consult**ant**/ consult**ing**
- a consum**er**/ consump**tion**
- some cooper**ation**/ a cooperat**ive**
- a coordinate/ some coordina**tion**/ a coordinat**or**
- a couple/ coupl**ing**
- a crea**tion**/ some creativ**ity**
- a cycle/ some recycl**ing**
- definabil**ity/ a** defini**tion**
- some deregul**ation**/ a regul**ation**
- a document/ some documenta**tion**
- equival**ence/ an** equival**ent**
- an expert/ some expert**ise**
- an export/ export**ation**
- facilit**ation**/ a facilitat**or**/ a facil**ity**
- some finance/ a financi**er**/ some financ**ing**
- a func**tion**/ functional**ity**
- identifica**tion/ an** ident**ity**
- an image/ some imagery
- an immigr**ant**/ some immigr**ation**
- an implement/ implementa**tion**
- an individu**al**/ individual**ism**/ an individual**ist**/ individual**ity**
- some legisla**tion**/ a legislature
- a liber**al**/ liberalis**ation**
- a loca**tion**/ reloc**ation**
- some medi**ation**/ a mediat**or**
- occupan**cy**/ an occup**ant**/ an occupa**tion**
- a particip**ant**/ some participa**tion**
- predictabil**ity**/ a predic**tion**
- prioritisa**tion/ a** prior**ity**
- a process/ some process**ing**
- a professional/ professional**ism**
- a radic**al**/ some radicalis**ation**
- some research/ a research**er**
- a respond**ent**/ a response/ responsive**ness**
- a sequence/ sequenc**ing**
- a structure/ some restructur**ing**
- some supervis**ion**/ a supervis**or**
- surviv**al**/ a surviv**or**
- a symbol/ some symbol**ism**
- a uniform/ uniform**ity**