

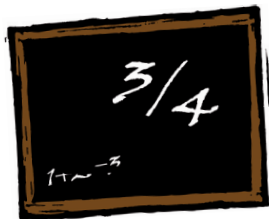
# Spelling the ending /sh'n/ as in fraction

3/4

There are three ways of spelling the sound /sh'n/

**tion**

fraction



**cian**

musician



**sion**

mansion



To help you choose:

1. The most common way is **tion** ...

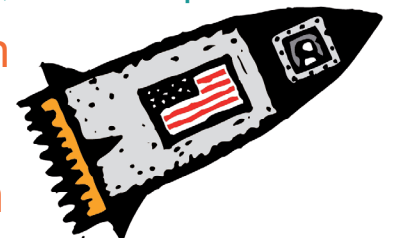
...but beware:

2. When a word describes an occupation it is often spelled **cian**.  
This usually happens when the root word ends in **ic**, for example:

music**ic** > music**ian**      electric**ic** > electric**ian**

3. After l, r and s, use **sion**:

excurs**ion**      confess**ion**      propuls**ion**



4. Now the tricky one! After the letter **n**, some words have **tion** and some have **sion**:

invent**ion**      attent**ion**      ment**ion**

pens**ion**      extens**ion**      mans**ion**



So ... if you can hear **n** before **sh'n** -  
check in a dictionary!

For more on this spelling rule, please see Spellzone Unit 28,  
where you will find complete spelling lesson plans, extensive word lists,  
practice exercises, tests and spelling games for - **tion/-cian/-sion**.

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- teaching English spelling