

## Why should we say 'Satanist', not 'Shatanist'?

First thing we should do before discussing which form is right, we should find out what do both words mean and where do they come from.

Word 'Satanist', is derived from word 'Satanism', which according to American Heritage Dictionary (<http://www.bartleby.com/61/>) means 'The worship of Satan characterized by a travesty of the Christian rites' or 'Profound wickedness'. As we can see, it comes from the name of Satan and it generally means behaviour that by majority would be described as 'bad'.

And that's where word 'Shatanist' comes forth. It was first used in a discussion about 'wicked' youth in Poland's more popular Catholic radio station – Radio Maryja, by so called 'mohair lady'. She was referring to those kids, who listen to heavy music and wear all black and by doing this all 'bad' things, they're bound to be also Satan's worshippers. Unfortunately she mispronounced the right word, and so Shatanists appeared.

The word became popular when this corrupted and deceived youth heard it and they started calling themselves like that as the mocking of what this lady said. It became used in situations where someone would do something which all those godly old ladies would describe as a bad behaviour, such as: listening to loud/heavy music, guys heaving long hair, wearing black clothes and drawing occult symbol like the peace/anarchy symbol. It is never meant to be serious and it is generally well known among people using it, that theoretically, such word doesn't exist. Unfortunately, very often, people who hear it, don't recognize the sarcasm and scold those who use it.

So, should we say 'Satanist' or 'Shatanist'? It is generally believed that the first form is the proper one. And it's true if we're talking about worship of Satan. But although the latter form may be not recognized as proper by linguists, it is believed by many, to be proper when someone is doing something that is not 'bad' but could be considered as such by some and when it is told with intended humour.

I believe that both form are correct, both in different situations. But with the second one, you should be careful while using it, that everyone would understand the sarcasm of it, so you don't get any extra homework for wrong pronunciation.