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Making verbs

Add –ate, –ise or –ify to turn a noun or an adjective into a verb.

1 Learn



A **verb** is a doing or being word. Lots of verbs are **built** from a noun or an adjective, with a **suffix** on the end: **–ate**, **–ise** or **–ify**.

class (noun)	+	**ify** (suffix)	=	**classify** (verb)	to sort things into groups
real (adjective)	+	**ise** (suffix)	=	**realise** (verb)	to come to know something is real or true
hyphen (noun)	+	**ate** (suffix)	=	**hyphenate** (verb)	to join words with a hyphen

Make a verb from *advert*

Step 1. What kind of word is it? An **advert** is a thing, so it's a **noun**.

Step 2. Try each suffix: adver**tate**? adver**tify**? adver**tise**? Only **advertise** is a real word.

Step 3. Check it works as a verb: "**to** advertise" ✓. "The shop will **advertise** the sale."

Flip's tip: not every suffix fits every word. Say all three out loud, and if you're not sure, check in a dictionary.

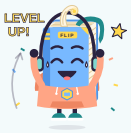
Warm up: draw a ring round the **verbs**.

solid | solidify | critic | criticise | valid | validate | symbol | symbolise

Grown-ups: in England, schools teach the **–ise** spelling (realise, criticise). The –ize spelling is also correct, so you may see both in books.

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2 Try it together a child and a grown-up, about 10 minutes



Verb hunt

You need: things with writing on them (food packets, instructions, leaflets, a newspaper or a non-fiction book) and a pencil.

1. Hunt for verbs ending in **–ate**, **–ise** or **–ify**. Instructions and leaflets are good places to look.
2. Write each verb in the table, and where you found it.
3. Cover the suffix with a finger. Which noun or adjective is hiding inside? Write it.
4. Is the hidden word a noun or an adjective? Ask: "Is it a thing?" or "Does it describe something?"

Verb we found	Where	Hidden word	Noun or adjective?

Grown-ups: some verbs end in –ate but have no English word inside, like create or debate. Write them in anyway and talk about it. If the hidden word lost an e or a y (active → activate), that's the next chapter's rule!

3 Practise

A. Tick the suffix that makes a real verb. Then write the verb.

Root word	–ate	–ise	–ify	The verb
equal adjective				
solid adjective				
origin noun				
fossil noun				
humid adjective				

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B. Make a verb from the word in brackets to finish each sentence.

1. The scientists will _____ the rocks by their colour. (class)
2. The shop will _____ its new games on the radio. (advert)
3. Our team scored late to _____ the score at 2–2. (equal)
4. Water will _____ into ice when it gets cold enough. (solid)
5. Please show your ticket to _____ it. (valid)

C. Is the word in bold right? Tick it, or cross it out and write the correct verb.

1. We need to **equalify** the two teams.

_____

2. They will **advert** the show online.

_____

3. I **realise** I have left my bag.

_____

4. Can you **classate** these shapes?

_____

D. Make a verb from each word. Use it in a sentence of your own.

symbol → _____

electric → _____

Challenge

Ava writes: "Remember to **hyphen** the two words." She says hyphen and hyphenate mean the same, so either is fine. Is she right? Explain.

I can… Tick when you can.

- ☐ add –ate, –ise or –ify to make a verb
- ☐ check the new word is a real verb
- ☐ use a verb, not a noun, in a sentence