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Verbs are words that describe what *people do*, *how they feel* and *how things are* in general. We can make new verbs by adding prefixes and suffixes to words we already know.

## Prefixes to form verbs

*Prefixes* go at the beginning of words. We use prefixes to change the meaning of words, including verbs:

- Alex decided to **rewrite** his paper to get a better grade. ('write' — 'rewrite')
- Why did you **undo** all of the work I did on the website? Now I have to redo it all. ('do' — 'undo')
- I think you should **disconnect** the printer and then reconnect it. That might work. ('connect' — 'disconnect')
- You have to **preorder** items so that you get them on time. ('order' — 'preorder')

The most common verb prefixes and their meaning:

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
re-	again or back	restructure, revisit, reappear, rebuild, refinance
dis-	reverses the meaning of the verb	disappear, disallow, disarm, disconnect, discontinue
over-	too much	overbook, oversleep, overwork
un-	reverses the meaning of the verb	unbend, uncouple, unfasten
mis-	badly or wrongly	mislead, misinform, misidentify
out-	more or better than others	outperform, outbid
co-	together	co-exist, co-operate, co-own
de-	do the opposite of	devalue, deselect
fore-	earlier, before	foreclose, foresee
inter-	between	interact, intermix, interface
pre-	before	pre-expose, prejudice, pretest

*sub-* under/below

*trans-* across, over

*under-* not enough

*subcontract, subdivide*

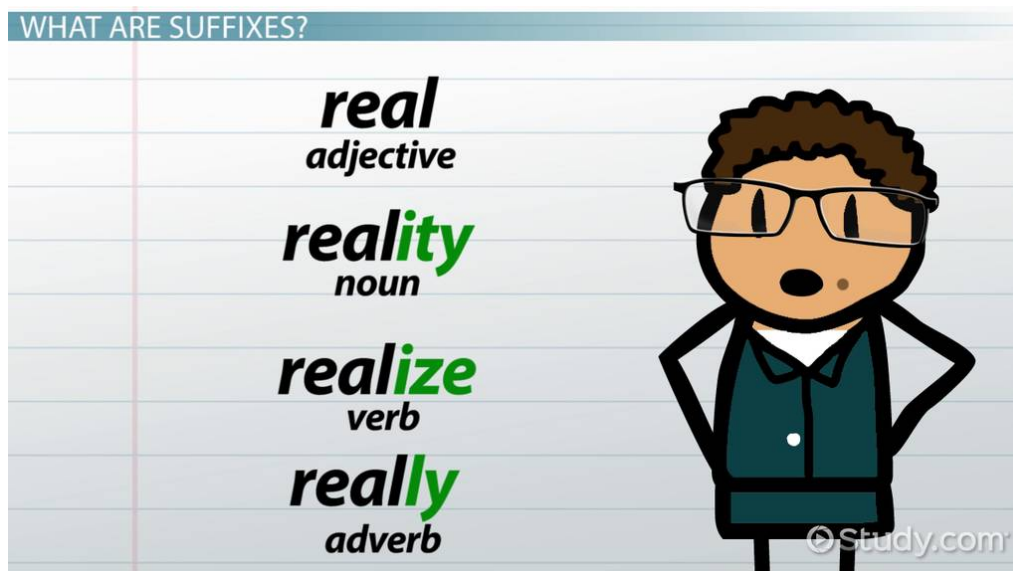
*transform, transcribe, transplant*

*underfund, undersell, undervalue, underdevelop*

Note: You may see verbs with prefixes written with a hyphen (-). This happens when a verb is not commonly used with a prefix, such as: 're-submit'. This will also depend on the type of English (American or British).

## Suffixes to form verbs

*Suffixes* go at the end of words. We use suffixes to change a word, like a noun or an adjective, to a different type of word, such as a verb.



via <https://study.com/academy/lesson/english-spelling-rules-for-suffixes-endings.html>

- *The butter is very **soft** because of the heat. - The butter **softens** when it is hot.*

'Soft' is an adjective, and it changes to a verb when we add '-en'.

Another example is '-ize', which turns nouns to verbs.

- *I find it hard to **sympathise** with you because my life is so different.*
- *We should try to **synthesize** all of this information so that it is easier to understand.*

The most common verb suffixes and their meaning:

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-en	To become	Soften, darken, widen, weaken, strengthen
-ise/-ize	To make or become	Sympathise, empathise, synthesize
-ate	To become	Activate, collaborate, create
-ify, -fy	To make or become	Justify, magnify, amplify, satisfy

- Nowadays students need to learn how to **collaborate** on projects.
- You should use clear arguments to justify the opinions in your essay.

Thus, suffixes can determine the word's part of speech. Certain suffixes make the base or root word a noun, a verb, an adjective, or even an adverb. For example, add '-ize' to make it 'realize', which is a verb.

Note: It is important to be able to identify the *root word* or base word. This will help you create new words, such as '*justify - justice - justification - just - justly*'. The root word is often the verb and then other words, like nouns, adjectives, and adverbs, are created with it, like '*create - creative - creativity*'.

Check out this video from Daniel Byrnes showing how we can make new verbs adding suffixes:

Read more on this topic:

[How to Form Adverbs](#)

[Noun Formation: Common Prefixes](#)

[Noun Formation: Common Suffixes](#)

[Adjective Formation: Common Prefixes and Suffixes](#)