

Verb formation

I. Verbs formed with suffixes

II. Verbs formed with prefixes

I. Verbs formed with suffixes

Suffix	Examples
-ate	approximate, calibrate, evaporate, hyphenate, integrate
-en	broaden, harden, lengthen, quicken, soften, strengthen
-ify	identify, justify, modify, qualify, simplify, specify, verify
-ize	computerize, economize, emphasize, globalize, industrialize, magnetize, modernize, normalize, rationalize, specialize, standardize

Notes:

- The suffix **-ize** is also spelled **-ise**, especially in BE.
- The verbs **advertise**, **advise**, **analyse** (in AE *analyze*), **surprise** are, however, always spelled with **-s**.

II. Verbs formed with prefixes

Prefix	Examples
co-	co-author, cochair, coexist, cofound, cooperate, coproduce
counter-	counteract, counterbalance, countercheck, countersign
de-	debug, decode, decentralize, decompose, defrost, destabilize
dis-	disagree, disappear, disbelieve, discolour, disconnect, discover, disintegrate, dislike, disqualify
em-	embed, embody, empower
en-	enclose, encode, endanger, enlarge, enrich, entitle
fore-	forecast, foresee, foretell
inter-	interact, interchange, interconnect, interlink, international, interrelate
mis-	miscalculate, misinform, misinterpret, mislead, mismanage, misunderstand
out-	outdo, outnumber, outperform
over-	overdo, overestimate, overheat, overreact, overwork
re-	rearrange, reboot, recharge, reconsider, redo, re-elect, re-enter, re-establish, re-examine, reformulate, rewind, rewrite
sub-	subcontract, subdivide, sublet
un-	undo, unload, unpack, unplug, unscrew
under-	underestimate, underline, underpay

Notes:

- The **prefixes** usually have a **secondary, i.e. weaker stress**.
mislead [ˌmɪsˈliːd]
When in doubt, check the stress and pronunciation with a dictionary.
- Verbs formed with the **prefix co-** are **sometimes hyphenated**.

cooperate or *co-operate*.

- When the **prefix re-** expresses **repetition of activity**, it has a **secondary stress**. When not, it has no stress.

re-form [ˌri:ˈfo:m] (= form again)

reform [riˈfo:m] (= improve, make better)

- With the **prefix re-**, the **hyphen** is used to **prevent ambiguity of meaning** (see above) or to **indicate pronunciation**.

re-elect [ˌri:ˈilekt] NOT: [ri:lɛkt]

Common mistakes:

- Wrong use of the **suffix –ate** (analogically with e.g. *eliminate* – *elimination*)

Wrong

determinate
examine
simplificate
modificate

Right

Verb

determine
examine
simplify
modify

Noun

determination
examination
simplification
modification

- Use of the **suffix –alize** instead of **–ize** (Czech interference)

Wrong

maximalize
minimalize
optimalize

Right

Verb

maximize
minimize
optimize

Noun

maximization
minimization
optimization

- Use of the **suffix –ize** instead of **–ate**

Wrong

automatize

Right

Verb

automate

Noun

automation

- Wrong pronunciation of the **suffix –ate** used to form **verbs, adjectives, and nouns**.

Verbs /eɪt/

approximate
associate
elaborate
estimate
graduate
separate

Adjectives /ət/

approximate
associate
elaborate
estimate
graduate
separate

Nouns /ət/

-
associate
-
-
graduate
-

EXERCISES

I. Complete the following table

Adjective	Noun	Verb
1. broad		
2. high		
3. long		
4. strong		
5. wide		

II. Tick the correct pronunciation.

1. They **estimate** the damage at 1,000 dollars. /eit/ /ət/
2. The Rector's Office and the International Office are in two **separate** buildings. /eit/ /ət/
3. Dr Wilde works as an **associate** professor at MIT. /eit/ /ət/
4. Would you please **elaborate** on what you said about wind power? /eit/ /ət/
5. The cost of the new laboratory equipment will **approximate** CZK 100,000. /eit/ /ət/
6. John is a **graduate** of Oxford University. /eit/ /ət/
7. People often **associate** products imported from the West with high quality, which is not always true. /eit/ /ət/
8. They **separate** recyclable waste from non-recyclable. /eit/ /ət/
9. Our quality evaluation system is very **elaborate**. /eit/ /ət/
10. What is your **estimate** of the damage? /eit/ /ət/
11. In which year did you **graduate**? /eit/ /ət/
12. What is the **approximate** number of students specializing in power electronics? /eit/ /ət/

III. Complete the sentences with the right forms of the verbs below.

debug **cochair** **embed** **misinterpret** **emphasize**
disagree **outnumber** **outdo** **subcontract** **counterbalance**
misunderstand **underestimate** **evaporate** **recharge** **qualify**
overdo **interact** **reconsider**

1. This conclusion is rather strange; the results must have been
2. In engineering, men greatly women.
3. temperature detectors are thermocouples built into a machine in order to ascertain the temperature of a part which is inaccessible under working conditions.
4. Students who spend a part of their studies at a foreign university often lose a semester because their study abroad is not recognized by their home faculty. This loss is, however, by the experience they gain.
5. Dr Novák from the University of West Bohemia and Professor Kinsey from Brunel

- University will the afternoon session.
6. Don't the time it takes to write the report. There's not much time left – the deadline is next Wednesday.
 7. They over the interpretation of the data.
 8. They did the experiment to find out how these two chemicals
 9. After the rainfall, water in the streets quickly in the bright sunshine.
 10. The management the need to improve the safety measures.
 11. In learning languages, women often men.
 12. My mobile battery is flat. I'll have to it.
 13. A Master's degree in Engineering, good English language and computer skills you for work with this company.
 14. It took a lot of time to the program.
 15. A big company often some of its work to smaller companies.
 16. Some economists believe that worries about our economy are; in comparison with some other countries it is in relatively good shape.
 17. I'm afraid I your message; I thought we were to meet in my office, not in yours.
 18. Do you think that my application will be ?

IV. Complete the sentences. Make sure that you understand them, because the context will help you make the right choice. Use verbs formed with prefixes and suffixes listed in the tables at the beginning of this section. Try to do the exercise without looking at the lists.

1. What's done can't be
2. I'm not surprised by this recession. I it.
3. The paper has five sections. Each section is into several parts.
4. This procedure is too complex. It will have to be
5. PhD students often complain that they are and
6. To prevent any accidents, it is safer not only to switch off the device but also to it.
7. The generation gap has in the last decade.
8. Your paper is too long; you'll have to it.
9. The grant has been badly They may have to pay back some of the money they had received.
10. As he didn't pay the bill, his phone was
11. Searching for a book in the University library is very easy now, because all its services have been
12. Today, school-leavers often spend a year travelling before they go to university, because they want to their horizons.
13. Messages are for greater security. That means that unauthorized people cannot them.
14. Deforestation and expansion of farmland are wildlife, especially in Africa and South America.
15. He has simply his abilities; he should not have taken the course in advanced mathematics.
16. Your definition of the problem is rather difficult to understand. Could you

it?

17. The circuits are with each other and the mains.

V. Translate

1. Navrhovaná reforma vysokého školství zvýšila napětí mezi akademickou obcí a ministrem.
.....

2. Vedoucí naší katedry chce posílit vztahy se Škoda Transportation.
.....

3. Než koupíme nábytek, musíme změřit délku a šířku kanceláře.
.....

4. V některých případech bylo bakalářské studium prodlouženo ze tří na čtyři roky.
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