

Words ending in -ise and -ize

Many English words can be spelt with either -ise and -ize. In American English, the spelling with -ize is preferred. In British English, both forms are usually possible.

Examples are:

British English	American English
Realize / realise	Realize
Mechanize / mechanise	Mechanize
Computerize / computerise	Computerize
Baptize / baptise	Baptize

Some words have -ise in both British and American English. Examples are:

Surprise; revise; advise; comprise; despise; compromise; exercise; supervise; televise; advertise

In American English *advertize* is also sometimes possible.

Exception

Capsize has -ize in both British and American English.

If you are in doubt, remember that in British English the forms with -ise are almost always possible.

Adverb formation

We normally change an adjective into an adverb by adding -ly.

Words ending in -ise and -ize

Real - really

Definite - definitely

Pale - palely

Complete - completely

Right - rightly

There are some exceptions to this rule.

True - truly (NOT Truely)

Due - duly

Whole - wholly

Full - fully

Y and i

-y usually changes to -i

Happy - happily

Easy - easily

Dry - drily or dryly

Gay - gaily

Exceptions are:

Shy - shyly

Sly - slyly

Coy - coyly

Adjectives ending in consonant + le

-le changes to -ly after a consonant.

Words ending in -ise and -ize

Idle - idly

Noble - nobly

Able - ably

Adjectives ending in ic

If an adjective ends in -ic, the adverb ends in -ically.

Tragic - tragically

Phonetic - phonetically

Note that public is an exception to this rule.

Public - publicly