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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>British English</th>
<th>American English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Realize / realise</td>
<td>Realize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanize / mechanise</td>
<td>Mechanize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computerize / computerise</td>
<td>Computerize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptize / baptise</td>
<td>Baptize</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 advertise 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