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identify

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i·den·ti·fy (ī-dĕn'tə-fī')

v. **i·den·ti·fied**, **i·den·ti·fy·ing**, **i·den·ti·fies**

v. *tr.*

1.

a. To establish or recognize the identity of; ascertain as a certain person or thing: *Can you identify what kind of plane that is? I identified the man at the next table as a famous actor.*

b. *Biology* To determine the taxonomic classification of (an organism).

c. To ascertain as having a certain characteristic or feature: *job candidates who are identified as overqualified; children who have been identified with hearing loss.*

2. To consider as identical or united; equate: *The Greek god Ares is identified with the Roman god Mars.*

3. To associate or affiliate closely with: *writers who are identified with modernism.*

v. *intr.*

1. To consider oneself as sharing certain characteristics or attitudes as another: *She identifies strongly with her grandmother.*

2. To associate oneself with or admire something, such as a set of ideas: *a language learner who identifies with a new culture.*

3. To believe or assert that one belongs to a certain group or class: *She identifies as a libertarian. He identifies as bisexual.*

[Medieval Latin *identificāre*, *to make to resemble*: Late Latin *identitās*, *identity*; see [identity](#) + Latin *-ficāre*, *-fy*.]

i·den'ti·fi'a·ble *adj.*

i·den'ti·fi'a·bly *adv.*

i·den'ti·fi'er *n.*

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identify (aɪ'dentɪfaɪ)

vb (*mainly tr*), **-fies**, **-fying** or **-fied**

1. to prove or recognize as being a certain person or thing; determine the identity of

2. to consider as the same or equivalent

3. (often foll by: *with*) to consider (oneself) as similar to another

4. to determine the taxonomic classification of (a plant or animal)

5. (Psychology) *psychol* (usually foll by: *with*) to engage in identification

i'denti, fiable *adj*

i'denti, fiably *adv*

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i•den•ti•fy (aɪˈdɛn təˌfaɪ, ɪˈdɛn-)

v. **-fied, -fy•ing.** v.t.

1. to recognize or establish as being a particular person or thing; verify the identity of.
2. to serve as a means of identification for.
3. to regard or treat as the same or identical; make identical.
4. to associate, as in name, feeling, interest, or action: *They identified him with the old regime.*
5. to determine to what group (a given biological specimen) belongs.
6. to associate (one or oneself) with another person or a group by identification.

v.i.

7. to experience psychological identification: *The audience identified with the main character.*

[1635–45; < Medieval Latin *identificāre*, derivative of *identitās* identity]

i•denˈti•fiˈa•ble, *adj.*

i•denˈti•fiˈer, *n.*

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identify

Past participle: identified

Gerund: identifying

Imperative ▼

Imperative

identify

identify

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Thesaurus

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Verb 1. identify - recognize as being; establish the identity of someone or something; "She identified the man on the 'wanted' poster"

≡ [place](#)

↔ [differentiate](#), [distinguish](#), [secern](#), [secernate](#), [severalise](#), [severalize](#), [tell apart](#), [separate](#), [tell](#) - mark as different; "We distinguish several kinds of maple"

↔ [set](#), [determine](#) - fix conclusively or authoritatively; "set the rules"

2. **identify** - give the name or identifying characteristics of; refer to by name or some other identifying characteristic property; "Many senators were named in connection with the scandal"; "The almanac identifies the auspicious months"

≡ **name**

↔ **denote, refer** - have as a meaning; "'multi-' denotes `many' "

↔ **enumerate, itemize, itemise, recite** - specify individually; "She enumerated the many obstacles she had encountered"; "The doctor recited the list of possible side effects of the drug"

↔ **number, list** - enumerate; "We must number the names of the great mathematicians"

↔ **announce** - give the names of; "He announced the winners of the spelling bee"

3. **identify** - consider (oneself) as similar to somebody else; "He identified with the refugees"

↔ **consider, regard, view, reckon, see** - deem to be; "She views this quite differently from me"; "I consider her to be shallow"; "I don't see the situation quite as negatively as you do"

4. **identify** - conceive of as united or associated; "Sex activity is closely identified with the hypothalamus"

↔ **associate, colligate, link, relate, tie in, connect, link up** - make a logical or causal connection; "I cannot connect these two pieces of evidence in my mind"; "colligate these facts"; "I cannot relate these events at all"

5. **identify** - identify as in botany or biology, for example

≡ **key, key out, describe, distinguish, name, discover**

6. **identify** - consider to be equal or the same; "He identified his brother as one of the fugitives"

↔ **recognize, recognise** - perceive to be the same

↔ **misidentify, mistake** - identify incorrectly; "Don't mistake her for her twin sister"

↔ **type, typecast** - identify as belonging to a certain type; "Such people can practically be typed"

↔ **taste** - distinguish flavors; "We tasted wines last night"

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identify

verb

1. ≡ **recognize, place, name, remember, spot, label, flag, catalogue, tag, diagnose, classify, make out, pinpoint, recollect, put your finger on** (*informal*) *I tried to identify her perfume.*
2. ≡ **establish, spot, confirm, finger** (*informal, chiefly U.S.*), **demonstrate, pick out, single out, certify, verify, validate, mark out, substantiate, corroborate** *Police have already identified around 10 suspects.*
3. ≡ **determine, establish, discover, fix, work out, decide on, settle on, ascertain, deduce, make up your mind on** *Having identified the problem, we now need to overcome it.*

identify something or someone with something or someone ≡ **equate with, associate with, think of in connection with, put in the same category as** *Audiences identify her with roles depicting sweet, passive women.*

identify with someone ≡ **relate to, understand, respond to, feel for, ally with, empathize with, speak the same language as, put yourself in the place or shoes of, see through another's eyes, be on the same wavelength as** *She would only play the role if she could identify with the character.*

Collins Thesaurus of the English Language – Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 © HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002

identify *verb*

1. To set off by or as if by a mark indicating ownership or manufacture:

≡ **brand, label, mark, tag, trademark.**

2. To establish the identification of:

≡ **pinpoint, place, recognize.**

≡ *Slang:* **finger.**

Idiom: **put one's finger on.**

3. To represent as similar:

≡ **analogize, assimilate, compare, equate, liken, match, parallel.**

4. To come or bring together in one's mind or imagination:

≡ **associate, bracket, connect, correlate, couple, link.**

5. To associate or affiliate oneself closely with a person or group:

≡ **empathize, relate, sympathize.**

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Translations

Select a language:

Spanish / Español ▼

identificar

reconocer

identify [ai'dentɪfaɪ]

A. VT [+ *person, problem*] → **identificar**

to identify o.s. → **identificarse**

to identify o.s. with → **identificarse con**

B. VI *to identify with* → **identificarse con**

Collins Spanish Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged 8th Edition 2005 © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1971, 1988 © HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2005

identify (ai'dentɪfaɪ) *verb*

1. to recognize as being a certain person *etc.* *Would you be able to identify the man who robbed you?; He identified the coat as his brother's.* **identificar**

2. to think of as being the same. *He identifies beauty with goodness.* **identificar**

i, dentifi' cation (-fi) *noun*

identificación

i' dentifi with

to feel in sympathy with (*eg* a character in a story). **identificarse con**

i' dentifi oneself with / be i' dentified with

to be associated with or give one's full support or interest to (a political party *etc.*) **identificarse con**

identify → **identificar**

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identify

v. **identificar**; **reconocer**.

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identify *vt (pret & pp -fied)* **identificar**; *vi to — with* **identificarse con**

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