

ap·ply

S1 W1

/ə'plai/

verb

(**applied, applying, applies**)

- 1 **request** [intransitive] ASK FOR SOMETHING/ASK SOMEBODY TO DO SOMETHING to make a formal request, usually written, for something such as a job, a place at a university, or permission to do something:

apply for

She applied for a job with the local newspaper.

*We need to **apply for** planning **permission** to build a garage.*

apply to

I applied to four universities and was accepted by all of them.

- 2 **affect** [intransitive, transitive not in progressive] EFFECT/INFLUENCE to have an effect on or to concern a particular person, group, or situation:

apply to

Do the same rules apply to part-time workers?

The offer only applies to flights from London and Manchester.

- 3 **use** [transitive] USE SOMETHING to use something such as a method, idea, or law in a particular situation, activity, or process:

apply something to something

New technology is being applied to almost every industrial process.

These ideas are often difficult to apply in practice.

- 4 **apply yourself** WORK HARD

to work hard at something, especially with a lot of attention for a long time:

Stephen would do well if only he applied himself.

apply yourself to

Over the next months, he applied himself to improving the technique.

- 5 | make something work** [transitive] USE SOMETHING to make something such as a piece of equipment operate, usually by pushing or pressing something:

apply the brakes

- 6 | spread paint/liquid etc** [transitive] PUT to put or spread something such as paint, liquid, or medicine onto a surface:

Apply the cream evenly over the skin.

apply make-up/lipstick etc

- 7 | apply force/pressure** PUSH
to push on something

- 8 | use a word** [transitive] USE SOMETHING to use a particular word or name to describe something or someone:

The term 'mat' can be applied to any small rug.

Word origin

Date: 1300–1400

Language: Old French

Origin: *aplier*, from Latin *applicare*, from *ad-* 'to' + *plicare* 'to fold'