

Approved Verbs for PowerShell Commands

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PowerShell uses a verb-noun pair for the names of cmdlets and for their derived .NET classes. The verb part of the name identifies the action that the cmdlet performs. The noun part of the name identifies the entity on which the action is performed. For example, the `Get-Command` cmdlet retrieves all the commands that are registered in PowerShell.

Note

PowerShell uses the term *verb* to describe a word that implies an action even if that word is not a standard verb in the English language. For example, the term *New* is a valid PowerShell verb name because it implies an action even though it is not a verb in the English language.

Each approved verb has a corresponding *alias prefix* defined. We use this alias prefix in aliases for commands using that verb. For example, the alias prefix for `Import` is `ip` and, accordingly, the alias for `Import-Module` is `ipmo`. This is a recommendation but not a rule; in particular, it need not be respected for command aliases mimicking well known commands from other environments.

Verb Naming Recommendations

The following recommendations help you choose an appropriate verb for your cmdlet, to ensure consistency between the cmdlets that you create, the cmdlets that are provided by PowerShell, and the cmdlets that are designed by others.

- Use one of the predefined verb names provided by PowerShell
- Use the verb to describe the general scope of the action, and use parameters to further refine the action of the cmdlet.
- Do not use a synonym of an approved verb. For example, always use `Remove`, never use `Delete` or `Eliminate`.
- Use only the form of each verb that is listed in this topic. For example, use `Get`, but

do not use `Get-ting` or `Get-s`.

- Do not use the following reserved verbs or aliases. The PowerShell language and a rare few cmdlets use these verbs under exceptional circumstances.
 - `ForEach` (`foreach`)
 - `Ping` (`pi`)
 - `Sort` (`sr`)
 - `Tee` (`te`)
 - `Where` (`wh`)

You may get a complete list of verbs using the `Get-Verb` cmdlet.

Similar Verbs for Different Actions

The following similar verbs represent different actions.

New vs. Add

Use the `New` verb to create a new resource. Use the `Add` to add something to an existing container or resource. For example, `Add-Content` adds output to an existing file.

New vs. Set

Use the `New` verb to create a new resource. Use the `Set` verb to modify an existing resource, optionally creating it if it does not exist, such as the `Set-Variable` cmdlet.

Find vs. Search

Use the `Find` verb to look for an object. Use the `Search` verb to create a reference to a resource in a container.

Get vs. Read

Use the `Get` verb to obtain information about a resource (such as a file) or to obtain an object with which you can access the resource in future. Use the `Read` verb to open a resource and extract information contained within.

Invoke vs. Start


Use the `Invoke` verb to perform synchronous operations, such as running a command and waiting for it to end. Use the `start` verb to begin asynchronous operations, such as starting an autonomous process.

Ping vs. Test

Use the `Test` verb.

Common Verbs

PowerShell uses the [System.Management.Automation.VerbsCommon](#) enumeration class to define generic actions that can apply to almost any cmdlet. The following table lists most of the defined verbs.

 Expand table

Verb (alias)	Action	Synonyms to avoid
Add (a)	Adds a resource to a container, or attaches an item to another item. For example, the <code>Add-Content</code> cmdlet adds content to a file. This verb is paired with <code>Remove</code> .	Append, Attach, Concatenate, Insert
Clear (cl)	Removes all the resources from a container but does not delete the container. For example, the <code>Clear-Content</code> cmdlet removes the contents of a file but does not delete the file.	Flush, Erase, Release, Unmark, Unset, Nullify
Close (cs)	Changes the state of a resource to make it inaccessible, unavailable, or unusable. This verb is paired with <code>Open</code> .	
Copy (cp)	Copies a resource to another name or to another container. For example, the <code>Copy-Item</code> cmdlet copies an item (such as a file) from one location in the data store to another location.	Duplicate, Clone, Replicate, Sync

Verb (alias)	Action	Synonyms to avoid
Enter (et)	Specifies an action that allows the user to move into a resource. For example, the <code>Enter-PSSession</code> cmdlet places the user in an interactive session. This verb is paired with <code>Exit</code> .	Push, Into
Exit (ex)	Sets the current environment or context to the most recently used context. For example, the <code>Exit-PSSession</code> cmdlet places the user in the session that was used to start the interactive session. This verb is paired with <code>Enter</code> .	Pop, Out
Find (fd)	Looks for an object in a container that is unknown, implied, optional, or specified.	Search
Format (f)	Arranges objects in a specified form or layout	
Get (g)	Specifies an action that retrieves a resource. This verb is paired with <code>Set</code> .	Read, Open, Cat, Type, Dir, Obtain, Dump, Acquire, Examine, Find, Search
Hide (h)	Makes a resource undetectable. For example, a cmdlet whose name includes the <code>Hide</code> verb might conceal a service from a user. This verb is paired with <code>Show</code> .	Block
Join (j)	Combines resources into one resource. For example, the <code>Join-Path</code> cmdlet combines a path with one of its child paths to create a single path. This verb is paired with <code>Split</code> .	Combine, Unite, Connect, Associate
Lock (lk)	Secures a resource. This verb is paired with <code>Unlock</code> .	Restrict, Secure
Move (m)	Moves a resource from one location to another. For example, the <code>Move-Item</code> cmdlet moves an item from one location in the data store to another location.	Transfer, Name, Migrate
New (n)	Creates a resource. (The <code>Set</code> verb can also be used when creating a resource that includes data, such as the <code>Set-Variable</code> cmdlet.)	Create, Generate, Build, Make, Allocate
Open (op)	Changes the state of a resource to make it accessible, available, or usable. This verb is paired with <code>Close</code> .	
Optimize (om)	Increases the effectiveness of a resource.	

Verb (alias)	Action	Synonyms to avoid
Pop (pop)	Removes an item from the top of a stack. For example, the <code>Pop-Location</code> cmdlet changes the current location to the location that was most recently pushed onto the stack.	
Push (pu)	Adds an item to the top of a stack. For example, the <code>Push-Location</code> cmdlet pushes the current location onto the stack.	
Redo (re)	Resets a resource to the state that was undone.	
Remove (r)	Deletes a resource from a container. For example, the <code>Remove-Variable</code> cmdlet deletes a variable and its value. This verb is paired with <code>Add</code> .	Clear, Cut, Dispose, Discard, Erase
Rename (rn)	Changes the name of a resource. For example, the <code>Rename-Item</code> cmdlet, which is used to access stored data, changes the name of an item in the data store.	Change
Reset (rs)	Sets a resource back to its original state.	
Resize (rz)	Changes the size of a resource.	
Search (sr)	Creates a reference to a resource in a container.	Find, Locate
Select (sc)	Locates a resource in a container. For example, the <code>Select-String</code> cmdlet finds text in strings and files.	Find, Locate
Set (s)	Replaces data on an existing resource or creates a resource that contains some data. For example, the <code>Set-Date</code> cmdlet changes the system time on the local computer. (The <code>New</code> verb can also be used to create a resource.) This verb is paired with <code>Get</code> .	Write, Reset, Assign, Configure
Show (sh)	Makes a resource visible to the user. This verb is paired with <code>Hide</code> .	Display, Produce
Skip (sk)	Bypasses one or more resources or points in a sequence.	Bypass, Jump
Split (sl)	Separates parts of a resource. For example, the <code>Split-Path</code> cmdlet returns different parts of a path. This verb is paired with <code>Join</code> .	Separate
Step (st)	Moves to the next point or resource in a sequence.	

Verb (alias)	Action	Synonyms to avoid
Switch (sw)	Specifies an action that alternates between two resources, such as to change between two locations, responsibilities, or states.	
Undo (un)	Sets a resource to its previous state.	
Unlock (uk)	Releases a resource that was locked. This verb is paired with <code>Lock</code> .	Release, Unrestrict, Unsecure
Watch (wc)	Continually inspects or monitors a resource for changes.	

Communications Verbs

PowerShell uses the [System.Management.Automation.VerbsCommunications](#) class to define actions that apply to communications. The following table lists most of the defined verbs.

 Expand table

Verb (alias)	Action	Synonyms to avoid
Connect (cc)	Creates a link between a source and a destination. This verb is paired with <code>Disconnect</code> .	Join, Telnet, Login
Disconnect (dc)	Breaks the link between a source and a destination. This verb is paired with <code>Connect</code> .	Break, Logoff
Read (rd)	Acquires information from a source. This verb is paired with <code>Write</code> .	Acquire, Prompt, Get
Receive (rc)	Accepts information sent from a source. This verb is paired with <code>Send</code> .	Read, Accept, Peek
Send (sd)	Delivers information to a destination. This verb is paired with <code>Receive</code> .	Put, Broadcast, Mail, Fax
Write (wr)	Adds information to a target. This verb is paired with <code>Read</code> .	Put, Print

Data Verbs

PowerShell uses the [System.Management.Automation.VerbsData](#) class to define actions that apply to data handling. The following table lists most of the defined verbs.

 Expand table

Verb Name (alias)	Action	Synonyms to avoid
Backup (ba)	Stores data by replicating it.	Save, Burn, Replicate, Sync
Checkpoint (ch)	Creates a snapshot of the current state of the data or of its configuration.	Diff
Compare (cr)	Evaluates the data from one resource against the data from another resource.	Diff
Compress (cm)	Compacts the data of a resource. Pairs with <code>Expand</code> .	Compact
Convert (cv)	Changes the data from one representation to another when the cmdlet supports bidirectional conversion or when the cmdlet supports conversion between multiple data types.	Change, Resize, Resample
ConvertFrom (cf)	Converts one primary type of input (the cmdlet noun indicates the input) to one or more supported output types.	Export, Output, Out
ConvertTo (ct)	Converts from one or more types of input to a primary output type (the cmdlet noun indicates the output type).	Import, Input, In
Dismount (dm)	Detaches a named entity from a location. This verb is paired with <code>Mount</code> .	Unmount, Unlink
Edit (ed)	Modifies existing data by adding or removing content.	Change, Update, Modify
Expand (en)	Restores the data of a resource that has been compressed to its original state. This verb is paired with <code>Compress</code> .	Explode, Uncompress
Export (ep)	Encapsulates the primary input into a persistent data store, such as a file, or into an interchange format. This verb is paired with <code>Import</code> .	Extract, Backup
Group (gp)	Arranges or associates one or more resources	

Verb Name (alias)	Action	Synonyms to avoid
Import (ip)	Creates a resource from data that is stored in a persistent data store (such as a file) or in an interchange format. For example, the <code>Import-csv</code> cmdlet imports data from a comma-separated value (CSV) file to objects that can be used by other cmdlets. This verb is paired with <code>Export</code> .	BulkLoad, Load
Initialize (in)	Prepares a resource for use, and sets it to a default state.	Erase, Init, Renew, Rebuild, Reinitialize, Setup
Limit (l)	Applies constraints to a resource.	Quota
Merge (mg)	Creates a single resource from multiple resources.	Combine, Join
Mount (mt)	Attaches a named entity to a location. This verb is paired with <code>Dismount</code> .	Connect
Out (o)	Sends data out of the environment. For example, the <code>out-Printer</code> cmdlet sends data to a printer.	
Publish (pb)	Makes a resource available to others. This verb is paired with <code>Unpublish</code> .	Deploy, Release, Install
Restore (rr)	Sets a resource to a predefined state, such as a state set by <code>Checkpoint</code> . For example, the <code>Restore-Computer</code> cmdlet starts a system restore on the local computer.	Repair, Return, Undo, Fix
Save (sv)	Preserves data to avoid loss.	
Sync (sy)	Assures that two or more resources are in the same state.	Replicate, Coerce, Match
Unpublish (ub)	Makes a resource unavailable to others. This verb is paired with <code>Publish</code> .	Uninstall, Revert, Hide
Update (ud)	Brings a resource up-to-date to maintain its state, accuracy, conformance, or compliance. For example, the <code>Update-FormatData</code> cmdlet updates and adds formatting files to the current PowerShell console.	Refresh, Renew, Recalculate, Re-index

Diagnostic Verbs

PowerShell uses the [System.Management.Automation.VerbsDiagnostic](#) class to define actions that apply to diagnostics. The following table lists most of the defined verbs.

 Expand table

Verb (alias)	Action	Synonyms to avoid
Debug (db)	Examines a resource to diagnose operational problems.	Diagnose
Measure (ms)	Identifies resources that are consumed by a specified operation, or retrieves statistics about a resource.	Calculate, Determine, Analyze
Ping (pi)	Deprecated - Use the Test verb instead.	
Repair (rp)	Restores a resource to a usable condition	Fix, Restore
Resolve (rv)	Maps a shorthand representation of a resource to a more complete representation.	Expand, Determine
Test (t)	Verifies the operation or consistency of a resource.	Diagnose, Analyze, Salvage, Verify
Trace (tr)	Tracks the activities of a resource.	Track, Follow, Inspect, Dig

Lifecycle Verbs

PowerShell uses the [System.Management.Automation.VerbsLifeCycle](#) class to define actions that apply to the lifecycle of a resource. The following table lists most of the defined verbs.

 Expand table

Verb (alias)	Action	Synonyms to avoid
Approve (ap)	Confirms or agrees to the status of a resource or process.	
Assert (as)	Affirms the state of a resource.	Certify

Verb (alias)	Action	Synonyms to avoid
Build (bd)	Creates an artifact (usually a binary or document) out of some set of input files (usually source code or declarative documents.) This verb was added in PowerShell 6.	
Complete (cp)	Concludes an operation.	
Confirm (cn)	Acknowledges, verifies, or validates the state of a resource or process.	Acknowledge, Agree, Certify, Validate, Verify
Deny (dn)	Refuses, objects, blocks, or opposes the state of a resource or process.	Block, Object, Refuse, Reject
Deploy (dp)	Sends an application, website, or solution to a remote target[s] in such a way that a consumer of that solution can access it after deployment is complete. This verb was added in PowerShell 6.	
Disable (d)	Configures a resource to an unavailable or inactive state. For example, the <code>Disable-PSBreakpoint</code> cmdlet makes a breakpoint inactive. This verb is paired with <code>Enable</code> .	Halt, Hide
Enable (e)	Configures a resource to an available or active state. For example, the <code>Enable-PSBreakpoint</code> cmdlet makes a breakpoint active. This verb is paired with <code>Disable</code> .	Start, Begin
Install (is)	Places a resource in a location, and optionally initializes it. This verb is paired with <code>Uninstall</code> .	Setup
Invoke (i)	Performs an action, such as running a command or a method.	Run, Start
Register (rg)	Creates an entry for a resource in a repository such as a database. This verb is paired with <code>Unregister</code> .	
Request (rq)	Asks for a resource or asks for permissions.	
Restart (rt)	Stops an operation and then starts it again. For example, the <code>Restart-Service</code> cmdlet stops and then starts a service.	Recycle
Resume (ru)	Starts an operation that has been suspended. For example, the <code>Resume-Service</code> cmdlet starts a service that has been	

Verb (alias)	Action	Synonyms to avoid
	suspended. This verb is paired with <code>Suspend</code> .	
<code>Start</code> (sa)	Initiates an operation. For example, the <code>Start-Service</code> cmdlet starts a service. This verb is paired with <code>Stop</code> .	Launch, Initiate, Boot
<code>Stop</code> (sp)	Discontinues an activity. This verb is paired with <code>Start</code> .	End, Kill, Terminate, Cancel
<code>Submit</code> (sb)	Presents a resource for approval.	Post
<code>Suspend</code> (ss)	Pauses an activity. For example, the <code>Suspend-Service</code> cmdlet pauses a service. This verb is paired with <code>Resume</code> .	Pause
<code>Uninstall</code> (us)	Removes a resource from an indicated location. This verb is paired with <code>Install</code> .	
<code>Unregister</code> (ur)	Removes the entry for a resource from a repository. This verb is paired with <code>Register</code> .	Remove
<code>Wait</code> (w)	Pauses an operation until a specified event occurs. For example, the <code>wait-job</code> cmdlet pauses operations until one or more of the background jobs are complete.	Sleep, Pause

Security Verbs

PowerShell uses the `System.Management.Automation.VerbsSecurity` class to define actions that apply to security. The following table lists most of the defined verbs.

 Expand table

Verb (alias)	Action	Synonyms to avoid
<code>Block</code> (bl)	Restricts access to a resource. This verb is paired with <code>Unblock</code> .	Prevent, Limit, Deny
<code>Grant</code> (gr)	Allows access to a resource. This verb is paired with <code>Revoke</code> .	Allow, Enable
<code>Protect</code> (pt)	Safeguards a resource from attack or loss. This verb is paired with <code>Unprotect</code> .	Encrypt, Safeguard, Seal

Verb (alias)	Action	Synonyms to avoid
Revoke (rk)	Specifies an action that does not allow access to a resource. This verb is paired with Grant .	Remove, Disable
Unblock (ul)	Removes restrictions to a resource. This verb is paired with Block .	Clear, Allow
Unprotect (up)	Removes safeguards from a resource that were added to prevent it from attack or loss. This verb is paired with Protect .	Decrypt, Unseal

Other Verbs

PowerShell uses the [System.Management.Automation.VerbsOther](#) class to define canonical verb names that do not fit into a specific verb name category such as the common, communications, data, lifecycle, or security verb names verbs.

 Expand table

Verb (alias)	Action	Synonyms to avoid
Use (u)	Uses or includes a resource to do something.	

See Also

- [System.Management.Automation.VerbsCommon](#)
- [System.Management.Automation.VerbsCommunications](#)
- [System.Management.Automation.VerbsData](#)
- [System.Management.Automation.VerbsDiagnostic](#)
- [System.Management.Automation.VerbsLifeCycle](#)
- [System.Management.Automation.VerbsSecurity](#)
- [System.Management.Automation.VerbsOther](#)
- [Cmdlet Declaration](#)
- [Windows PowerShell Programmer's Guide](#)
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