

A reverse transcriptase (RT) is an enzyme used to generate [complementary DNA](#) (cDNA) from an [RNA](#) template, a process termed [reverse transcription](#). Reverse transcriptases are used by [retroviruses](#) to replicate their [genomes](#), by retrotransposon mobile genetic elements to proliferate within the host genome, by eukaryotic cells to extend the [telomeres](#) at the ends of their linear chromosomes, and by some non-retroviruses such as the [hepatitis B virus](#), a member of the Hepadnaviridae, which are dsDNA-RT viruses.

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