

BRITISH VS AMERICAN SPELLING - WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

There are a number of ways in which British and American English differ when it comes to spelling.

Below are the main differences in spelling between UK and US English:

British (UK)	American (US)
-our vs. -or	
In British English, words ending in "-our" (e.g., colour, honour, labour) are typically spelled "-or" in American English (color, honor, labor).	
Amour	Amor
Ardour	Ardor
Armour	Armor
Candour	Candor
Clamour	Clamor
Contour	Contor
Detour	Detor
Demeanour	Demeanor
Endeavour	Endeavor
Favour	Favor
Flavour	Flavor
Glamour	Glamor
Harbour	Harbor
Honour	Honor
Humour	Humor
Labour	Labor
Neighbour	Neighbor
Odour	Odor
Parlour	Parlor
Rigour	Rigor
Rumour	Rumor
Saviour	Savior

British (UK)	American (US)
-re vs. -er	
Words that end in "-re" in British English often end in "-er" in American English. For example, "centre" and "metre" in British English are "center" and "meter" in American English.	
Calibre	Caliber
Centre	Center
Fibre	Fiber
Goitre	Goiter
Kilometre	Kilometer
Litre	Liter
Lustre	Luster
Meagre	Meager
Metre	Meter
Millimetre	Millimeter
Mitre	Miter
Nitre	Niter
Ochre	Ocher
Sabre	Saber
Sombre	Somber
Spectre	Specter
Theatre	Theater
Calibre	Caliber
Centre	Center
Fibre	Fiber
Goitre	Goiter
Kilometre	Kilometer

British (UK)	American (US)
-ise vs. -ize	
Although both British and American English use "-ize" (e.g., realize, organize), British English also commonly uses "-ise" (realise, organise). American English predominantly uses "-ize".	
Apologise	Apologize
Capitalise	Capitalize
Categorise	Categorize
Characterise	Characterize
Civilise	Civilize
Criticise	Criticize
Emphasise	Emphasize
Harmonise	Harmonize
Maximise	Maximize
Memorise	Memorize
Organise	Organize
Realise	Realize
Recognise	Recognize
Standardise	Standardize
Stigmatise	Stigmatize
Summarise	Summarize
Synchronise	Synchronize
Utilise	Utilize
Vandalise	Vandalize
Visualise	Visualize
Spelling of certain past tense verbs	
In British English, the past tense of certain verbs ends in "-t", while in American English, it ends in "-ed". For example, "learnt" and "dreamt" in British English are "learned" and "dreamed" in American English.	
Burnt	Burned
Dreamt	Dreamed
Knelt	Kneeled
Learnt	Learned
Leapt	Leaped
Spelt	Spelled
Smelt	Smelled
Spilt	Spilled
Spoilt	Spoiled

British (UK)	American (US)
-ce vs. -se	
For some words, British English uses "-ce" while American English uses "-se". For example, "defence" and "licence" in British English are "defense" and "license" in American English.	
Defence	Defense
Licence	License
Offence	Offense
Practise (verb)	Practice (verb)
Pretence	Pretense
Double vs. single letters	
British English often doubles certain letters in words where American English does not. For example, "travelling" and "cancelled" in British English are "traveling" and "canceled" in American English.	
Cancelled	Canceled
Counsellor	Counselor
Enrolment	Enrollment
Fulfil	Fulfill
Jewellery	Jewelry
Labelling	Labeling
Libelled	Libeled
Marvellous	Marvelous
Modelling	Modeling
Quarrelling	Quarreling
Signalling	Signaling
Travelling	Traveling
Tunnelled	Tunneled
Woollen	Woolen

British (UK)	American (US)
<p>-ogue vs. -og</p> <p>For some words, British English uses "-ogue" while American English uses "-og". For example, "analogue" and "catalogue" in British English are "analog" and "catalog" in American English.</p>	
Analogue	Analog
Catalogue	Catalog
Dialogue	Dialog
Epilogue	Epilog
Monologue	Monolog
Pedagogue	Pedagog
Prologue	Prolog
Synagogue	Synagog
<p>-ae-/-oe- vs. -e-</p> <p>For some words, British English uses "-ae-/-oe-" while American English uses "-e-". For example, "anaemia" and "foetus" in British English are "anemia" and "fetus" in American English.</p>	
Anaemia	Anemia
Archaeology	Archeology
Caesium	Cesium
Encyclopaedia	Encyclopedia
Foetus	Fetus
Haemoglobin	Hemoglobin
Leukaemia	Leukemia
Manoeuvre	Maneuver
Oestrogen	Estrogen
Paediatric	Pediatric
Palaeontology	Paleontology
Anaesthetic	Anesthetic
Diarrhoea	Diarrhea
Oesophagus	Esophagus
Paedophile	Pedophile
Gynaecology	Gynecology

British (UK)	American (US)
Specific word differences	
There are some words that are just spelled differently, with no specific rule applying, like "tyre" (British) vs. "tire" (American), "cheque" (British) vs. "check" (American), and "aeroplane" (British) vs. "airplane" (American).	
Aeroplane	Airplane
Ageing	Aging
Aluminium	Aluminum
Cheque	Check
Cosy	Cozy
Doughnut	Donut
Grey	Gray
Jewellery	Jewelry
Mould	Mold
Pyjamas	Pajamas
Sulphur	Sulfur
Tyre	Tire
Kerb	Curb
Moustache	Mustache
Plough	Plow
Sceptic	Skeptic
Storey (of a building)	Story
Yoghurt	Yogurt
Counsellor	Counselor
Draught	Draft
Mum	Mom
Plough	Plow
Programme	Program (when referring to TV or radio)
Storey	Story
Tonnes	Tons