



BRITISH AND  
AMERICAN ENGLISH  
*Spelling*

## American and British English Spelling Differences

American English is the form of English used in the United States. It includes all English dialects used within the United States of America. British English is the form of English used in the United Kingdom. It includes all English dialects used within the United Kingdom.

It can be said that American English has the more economical and phonetic spelling. Unnecessary letters are left out and words are spelled how they sound.

### American and British English Spelling Differences

#### Words ending in -or vs. -our

- *Armor – Armour*
- *Behavior – Behaviour*
- *Color – Colour*
- *Endeavor – Endeavour*
- *Favorite – Favourite*
- *Flavor – Flavour*
- *Glamor – Glamour*
- *Honor – Honour*
- *Humor – Humour*
- *Labor – Labour*
- *Neighbor – Neighbour*
- *Odor – Odour*
- *Rumor – Rumour*
- *Savor – Savour*
- *Splendor – Splendour*
- *Vigor – Vigour*

#### Words ending in -ll vs. -l

##### American English vs. British English:

- *Enrollment – Enrolment*
- *Fulfill – Fulfil*

- *Jewelry – Jewellery*
- *Skillful – Skilful*

### Words ending in -og vs. -ogue

#### American English vs. British English:

- *Analog – Analogue*
- *Boogeyman – Bogeyman*
- *Catalog – Catalogue*
- *Dialog – Dialogue*

### Words ending in -ck or -k vs. -que

#### American English vs. British English:

- *Bank – Banque*
- *Check – Cheque*
- *Checker – Chequer*

### Words ending in -ze vs. -se

#### American English vs. British English:

- *Analyze – Analyse*
- *Apologize – Apologise*
- *Criticize – Criticise*
- *Memorize – Memorise*
- *Minimize – Minimise*
- *Organize – Organise*
- *Paralyze – Paralyse*
- *Patronize – Patronise*
- *Prize – Prise*
- *Realize – Realise*
- *Recognize – Recognise*
- *Socialize – Socialise*
- *Specialize – Specialise*

### Words ending in -er vs. -re

#### American English vs. British English:

- *Center – Centre*
- *Amphitheater – Amphitheatre*

- *Caliber – Calibre*
- *Fiber – Fibre*
- *Kilometer – Kilometre*
- *Liter – Litre*
- *Louver – Louvre*
- *Luster – Lustre*
- *Maneuver – Manoeuvre*
- *Meager – Meagre*
- *Meter – Metre*
- *Saber – Sabre*
- *Scepter – Sceptre*
- *Somber – Sombre*
- *Theater – Theatre*

### Words ending in -e vs. -oe or -ae

#### American English vs. British English:

- *Encyclopedia – Encyclopaedia*
- *Estrogen – Oestrogen*
- *Leukemia – Leukaemia*
- *Maneuver – Manoeuvre*
- *Medieval – Mediaeval*
- *Pediatric – Paediatric*

### Words ending in -dg vs. -dge (or -g vs. -gu)

#### American English vs. British English:

- *Aging – Ageing*
- *Argument – Argument*
- *Judgment – Judgement*

### Words ending in -ed vs. -t

#### American English vs. British English:

- *Dreamed – Dreamt*
- *Burned – Burnt*
- *Learned – Learnt*

### Words ending in -ense vs. -ence

**American English vs. British English:**

- *Defense – Defence*
- *License – Licence*
- *Offense – Offence*
- *Pretense – Pretence*

**Words ending in a vowel plus -l****American English vs. British English:**

- *Counseling – Counselling*
- *Equaling – Equalling*
- *Fueled – Fuelled*
- *Fueling – Fuelling*
- *Modeling – Modelling*
- *Quarreling – Quarrelling*
- *Signaling – Signalling*
- *Traveled – Travelled*
- *Traveler – Traveller*
- *Traveling – Travelling*

**[American and British English Spelling Differences | Image](#)**

### American vs. British Spelling Differences Quick Reference Chart

<b>ENSE vs. ENCE</b>		<b>ER vs. RE</b>		<b>OR vs. OUR</b>	
<b>American</b>	<b>British</b>	<b>American</b>	<b>British</b>	<b>American</b>	<b>British</b>
defense	defence	center	centre	color	colour
license	licence	liter	litre	favorite	favourite
practise	practice	meter	metre	neighbor	neighbour
<b>Common Words</b>		<b>ED vs. T</b>		<b>K vs. QUE</b>	
<b>American</b>	<b>British</b>	<b>American</b>	<b>British</b>	<b>American</b>	<b>British</b>
jewelry	jewellery	dreamed	dreamt	bank	banque
pajamas	pyjamas	learned	learnt	check	cheque
plow	plough	burned	burnt	checker	chequer
program	programme				
mom	mum				
mustache	moustache				
specialty	speciality				
tire	tyre				
whiskey	whisky				
		<b>LL vs. L</b>		<b>OG vs. OGUE</b>	
		<b>American</b>	<b>British</b>	<b>American</b>	<b>British</b>
		enrollment	enrolment	analog	analogue
		fulfill	fulfil	catalog	catalogue
		skillful	skilful	dialog	dialogue

<b>British and American spelling</b>			
<b>British</b>	<b>American</b>	<b>British</b>	<b>American</b>
Centre	Center	Leukaemia	Leukemia
Fibre	Fiber	Manoeuvre	Maneuver
Litre	Liter	Oestrogen	Estrogen
Theatre	Theater or Theatre	Paediatric	Pediatric
Analyse	Analyze	Travelled	Traveled
Colour	Color	Defence	Defense
Flavour	Flavor	Licence	License
Humour	Humor	Offence	Offense
Labour	Labor	Pretence	Pretense
Paralyse	Paralyze	Analogue	Analog or Analogue
Realise	Realize	Tyre	Tire
Favourite	Favorite	Colour	Color
Jewellery	Jewelry	Dialogue	Dialog

