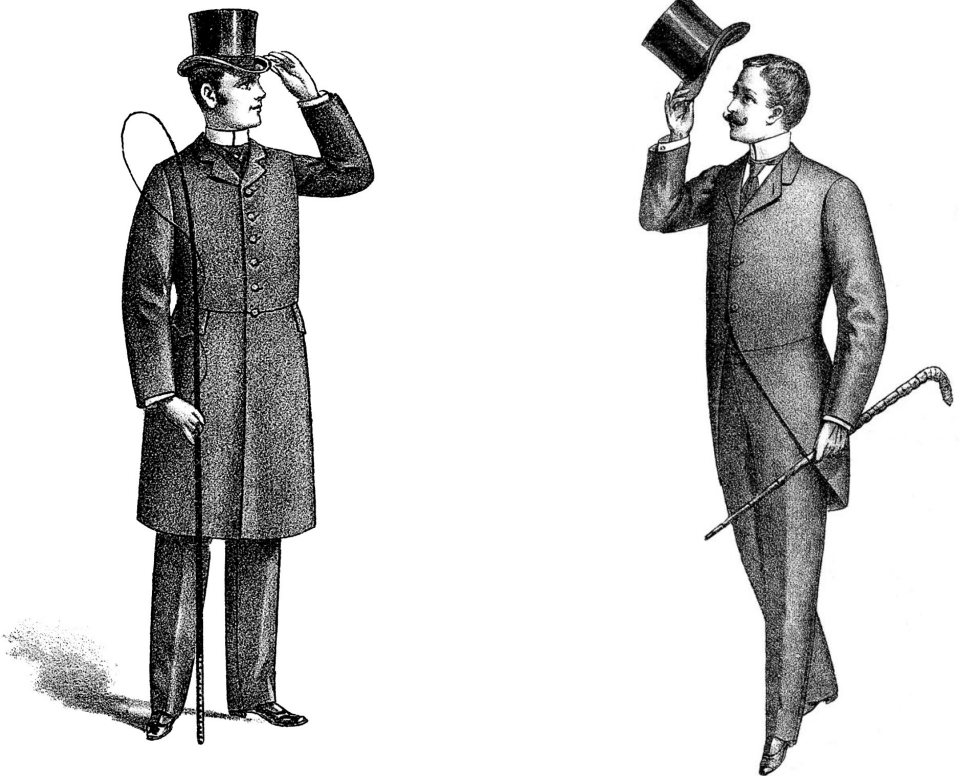


1st edition

# MIND the GAP

*an editor's guide to American and British English*



C A L E B      W I L L I A M S

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# Preface

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It is appropriate to preface this project by saying that it is a futile, sisyphian task. An American and British English guide cannot ever be “complete”. The linguistic conventions of entire nations are too fluid to be caught and wrestled into a neat manual. And despite our love of standardization, our idiosyncracies are such that no one uses English in exactly the same way as anyone else; every man *is* an island—linguistically speaking.

Even so, there is a class of people who go by the name “editor”, and they have bravely defended the standards of English against the linguistic relativists for decades. Whatever consensus we hold concerning our language is enforced and conserved by the not-always-so-gentle hand of these craftspeople. They are the bane of the literary artist and the boon of the literary critic.

But even the editors must be reconciled to English’s global nature. Diverse nations use English in diverse ways, and no prescriptive stubbornness seems strong enough to change that. A globally minded editor must be willing to shift between these nationalects as appropriate.

This guide is for that editor.

More specifically, this guide is designed to help any editor who is working from American to British English or vice versa. Their assignment might be to prepare a British manuscript for American distribution or revise American marketing copy for British consumers. Beyond changing language settings in a word processor, this editor needs to have an intuitive understanding of both the straightforward and complex ways these nations use English differently. With this guide, they should be able to tackle any such project.

This resource does not pretend to be totally comprehensive. There will undoubtedly be esoteric points of usage or obscure examples of vocabulary missing; these will be incorporated in later editions. For now, however, this guide represents the preponderance of differences between American and British English.

Beyond simply identifying these differences, this guide is designed to facilitate clear and accurate application for its user. Should the reader find any issues with the guide and its contents, they are invited to share them with the author at the following email address: [caleb.ed.williams@gmail.com](mailto:caleb.ed.williams@gmail.com)

# Introduction to this Guide

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Before we jump into the nitty gritty of the American/British language divide, let us come to a mutual understanding about the purposes and functions of this guide.

## **What on earth is a nationalect?**

Glad you asked. In comparing American and British English, we will use the term “nationalect. This term is borrowed from Lynne Murphy, whose work has been invaluable in the development of this text. Because both American and British English contain dozens of their own dialects, it feels imprecise to use the term “dialect” when discussing such broad distinctions. To that end, “nationalect” is an appropriate and useful alternative.

## **For whom is this guide written?**

This guide is written primarily for the benefit of the literary editor. More specifically, this guide is a tool for any poor editor tasked with revising texts from American English to British English or vice versa. When an editor questions whether or not a word, punctuation, or construction is appropriate for one of the relevant nationalects, they should be able to turn to this guide and find their answer with ease.

## **What does this guide cover?**

This text covers the linguistic differences between American and British English as they relate to the written word. So, if you’re looking for information about pronunciation differences, you’re barking up the wrong tree, so to speak. Those issues are covered extensively by our colleagues in the scientific field of linguistics, and honestly, we should have no envy for their work. Leave the vowel charts and regression maps to them, says I.

Furthermore, this guide does not address the English nationalects found in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Jamaica, Nigeria, South Africa, etc., not because these nationalects are not legitimate or important but because doing so would require a much broader research effort.

This guide addresses the following topics: usage, punctuation, spelling, vocabulary, idioms, and slang. In each of these categories, points of distinction are identified and explained. Most entries also include practical examples.

### **In which nationalect is this guide written?**

I am American by birth, so I was fed the usage rules of American English from my boyhood on. As such, the majority of this guide will be written in a style befitting that upbringing. I trust that any reader from Albion shores across the sea will manage to make sense of this guide's contents.

That said, there are some features of British English that I find more logically sound or aesthetically pleasing, and so I have employed certain British usage as I've seen fit.

Consider this an opportunity to test your editorial abilities. Can you spot when I use a Britishism versus an Americanism?

### **In what order are entries listed?**

Entries are listed in alphabetical order, either with the American rule first or the British rule first. The introductory paragraphs of each section will clearly state how entries are alphabetically ordered.

The examples will always be displayed with the American form first, the British second, and the "both" form last (when applicable).

### **What are the limitations of this guide?**

American and British English don't really exist; that is, there is neither one standard American English nor one standard British English. Britons from Liverpool use a very different dialect of English compared to Britons from London. The same goes for Americans and their diverse dialects.

The entries in this guide seek to identify and describe the broad points of difference between the two nationalects. If you are looking for particular information about a specific dialect, you will need to look beyond these pages.

Additionally, the differences between the nationalects are vast, so certain points have certainly slipped through the cracks. This is especially true for specialized language used in technical and professional fields.

When in doubt, use comprehensive research resources.

### **What about issues with more than one answer?**

As an editor, your number one priority should be consistency. If there is an issue where a nationalect allows for more than one way of doing something, choose one way and make sure it is applied consistently throughout the text. Internal document consistency is more important than prescriptive adherence.



### **Is this guide prescriptivist or descriptivist?**

This guide tries to explain how these nationalects are used in regular writing and speech. In that way, it is fairly descriptivist. On the other hand, this guide also draws from the prescriptivist style guides popular in each nationalect (Chicago and Oxford, mainly).

### **What should I do if I find an error?**

As explained, there is no way to create a perfect guide to American and British English. If you are concerned that an entry is inaccurate or incomplete, please email [caleb.ed.williams@gmail.com](mailto:caleb.ed.williams@gmail.com).

# USAGE

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When the common man or woman opines about grammar, they are, in most cases, speaking rather of usage. Usage refers to the customs and rules associated with how English is wielded. Most armchair grammarians concern themselves with the preservation of the prescriptive usage rules they were taught by the English instructors of their youth.

And yet, English is an ever-evolving language, both through time and across space. Usage rules that were pounded into the head of a Floridian third grader in 1963 are different from the ones given to the British pupil of the 2020s.

Over the decades, certain rules, devised and espoused by strict grammarians, took hold in the editorial rooms of America and Britain. In some cases, however, these rules only caught on in one place or the other. A competent editor must be able to identify the usage customs appropriate for the relevant English nationalect. By doing so, the editor is preserving the linguistic context of the text, its author, and its audience. This section features the common distinctions in usage between American and British English.

The entries are ordered alphabetically by the British usage rule.

## AGENTIVES

Agentives are words derived from a noun or a verb that represent an agent. For example, “driver” is the agentive form of “to drive”. A person who writes blogs is a “blogger”. In British English, the agentive suffix *-er* is commonly attached to the name of a sport. In American English, it is more common to follow the sport name with “player”.

A	AmE	football player, baseball player, basketball player
	BrE	footballer, netballer, cricketer
	both	golfer, bowler, shooter

One exception in American English is the colloquial “baller”.

## COLLECTIVE NOUNS

When using collective nouns, the rules governing subject-verb agreement are different. Americans use singular verb forms with collective nouns, treating those nouns as one entity. Britons, on the other hand, treat their collective nouns as multiple individuals; by extension, they use a plural verb form.

A	AmE	My family is coming over for dinner.
	BrE	My family are coming over for dinner.

B	AmE	Is the team winning?
	BrE	Are the team winning?

C	AmE	The audience waits in anticipation.
	BrE	The audience wait in anticipation.

## COMPOUND NOUNS

Compound nouns are formed by joining two different words together to create a new linguistic unit. In British English, some compound nouns can be formed by putting a gerund and a noun together. In America, these are often formed by putting a bare infinitive and a noun together.

A	AmE	jump rope, dial tone, file cabinet, racecar, rowboat, sailboat
	BrE	skipping rope, dialing tone, filing cabinet, racing car, rowing boat, sailing boat

Other compound nouns in American English are formed by joining two nouns together. In British English, the first word might be another type of word.

B	AmE	barbershop, cookbook, dollhouse, skim milk
	BrE	barber's shop, cookery book, doll's house, skimmed milk

Another example is the term used for intoxicated driving. Americans say “drunk driving” (adjective, gerund) while Britons say “drink driving” (verb, gerund).

Because there are no rules to these differences, one should know how to use a dictionary to discern the American form from the British.

## DATES and TIMES

Much to the chagrin of literally everyone upon the face of this blessed earth, Americans have chosen to write their dates in the mm/dd/yyyy format instead of the globally preferred—and logically sound—dd/mm/yyyy format. To make matters worse, Americans have the pesky habit of dropping the invaluable “the” that finds its way between months and days in British English.

A	AmE	We were married on 12/20/2021.
	BrE	We were married on 20/12/2021.

B	AmE	The conference will be broadcast on July fifth.
	BrE	The conference will be broadcast on July the fifth.

Additionally, the 24-hour clock, used in much of the world, is largely unfamiliar to any American not in military service. Americans use the 12-hr clock to tell time.

C	AmE	I'm catching the train at 6:30 PM.
	BrE	I'm catching the train at 18:30.

## DEFINITE ARTICLE

In British English, there are certain situations where the definite article “the” does not need to be placed between a preposition and a noun. In American English, “the” is not omitted.

A	AmE	He's been in the hospital since Saturday.
	BrE	He's been in hospital since Saturday.

B	AmE	She has been studying at the university.
	BrE	She has been studying at university.

The definite article is used before the names of major roadways in Britain but not in America (unless using the nickname of the roadway like “the 5”).

C	AmE	We've been driving down I-15 all night.
	BrE	We've been driving down the M25 all night.

## GOT vs GOTTEN

The past participle of the verb “to get” is “got” in British English. In American English, however, the form “gotten” is frequently used. The British turn their noses up at this construction, finding it inexplicably offensive to their linguistic sensibilities.

A	AmE	He’s gotten fat.
	BrE	He’s got fat.

B	AmE	They have gotten serious about their relationship.
	BrE	They have got serious about their relationship.

C	AmE	The story has gotten international attention.
	BrE	The story has got international attention.

## HAVING vs TAKING

Britons have while Americans take—insert witty social commentary. Delexical verbs are, in layman’s terms, verbs whose meaning is established by the noun to which they are attached. In some cases (especially when concerning naps and baths), where Britons use “to have” as a delexical verb, Americans opt for “to take”.

A	AmE	She’s going to take a nap.
	BrE	She’s going to have a kip.

B	AmE	I’m going to take a bath before I go to bed.
	BrE	I’m going to have a bath before I go to bed.

C	AmE	Would you mind taking a look at my car?
	BrE	Would you mind having a look at my car?

D	AmE	I’ll take a crack at it.
	BrE	I’ll have a go at it.

## INDEFINITE ARTICLES

Some British authors use the indefinite article “an” before words that start with an unstressed h-. One should note that while this is becoming more rare, it is still a feature of British English. In most cases, American English uses “a” in front of these words. A notable exception is “herb”, which Americans often precede with “an” because the h- is unstressed.

A	AmE	a hallucination, a hilarious, a historic, a horrendous, a horrific, a hotel, an herb
	BrE	an hallucination, an hilarious, an historic, an horrendous, an horrific, an hotel, an herb

Again, note that the British usage is restricted to certain dialects and demographics. Some British English speakers use more American usage on this issue.

## NEEDN'T vs DON'T NEED TO

When speaking of something one does not have an obligation or need to do, an American will contract “do not” and call it a day. Posh Brits, on the other hand, have a nasty habit dropping half the words in the phrase, switching the order of the surviving words, and throwing an apostrophe into the place of a removed “o”.

A	AmE	You don't need to salt it before you throw it on the pan.
	BrE	You needn't salt it before you throw it on the pan.

## NEGATIVE CONTRACTIONS

British and American English speakers tend to make negative contractions at different points in the construction. British usage leans towards contracting the subject and the auxiliary verb (do, have, be). American usage, on the other hand, generally contracts the auxiliary verb with the negative word (not).

A	AmE	I wouldn't do that if I were you.
	BrE	I'd not do that if I were you.

B	AmE	You haven't earned your degree yet?
	BrE	You've not earned your degree yet?

C	AmE	He isn't going to make it to the party.
	BrE	He's not going to make it to the party.

## NUMBERS

In British English, numbers with a value over one hundred often include the word “and” between “hundred” and the following digits. In American English, this “and” is often (but not always) omitted.

A	AmE	She has three hundred fifteen dollars to her name.
	BrE	She has three hundred and fifteen pounds to her name.

## PAST TENSE FORMS

Certain verbs are irregular in American English and regular in British English or vice versa. One notable example is with past participle forms; some verbs in British English end in -t instead of -ed in their past participle form.

A	AmE	burned, dreamed, leaned, learned, smelled, spelled, spilled, spoiled
	BrE	burnt, dreamt, leant, learnt, smelt, spelt, spilt, spoilt

In addition, both “quit” and “wet” are regular verbs in British English but irregular verbs in American English. “Dive” is sometimes irregular in American English.

B	AmE	quit, wet, dove
	BrE	quitted, wetted, dived

Another verb, “got”, is treated with its own entry earlier in this guide.

American and British English also differ in the construction of past tense sentences. Britons are more likely to use the past perfect tense when talking about actions in the past. Americans, on the other hand, prefer to simplify everything using a simple past tense verb and “already”, “just”, or “yet”.

C	AmE	I just woke up.
	BrE	I have just woken up.

D	AmE	She already finished washing the dishes.
	BrE	She has already finished washing the dishes.

E	AmE	Did they leave yet?
	BrE	Have they left yet?

### PHRASAL VERBS

A seasoned editor will know to look up phrasal verbs to make sure that the correct preposition is attached to the verb. In American and British English, some phrasal verbs are constructed with different prepositions. One should be ready to look up these phrasal verbs and confirm they are correctly formed for the appropriate nationallect.

A	AmE	You will need to fill out some paperwork.
	BrE	You will need to fill in some paperwork.

B	AmE	The game was rained out.
	BrE	The match was rained off.

C	AmE	We cater to a diverse client base.
	BrE	We cater for a diverse client base.

### PRO-PREDICATE DO

Britons favor retaining “do” at the end of predicate phrases, but Americans almost exclusively omit “do”. In these cases, “do” is replacing the verb presented in the initial question.

A	AmE	Did he finisht the job? : He might have.
	BrE	Did he finish the job? : He might have done.

B	AmE	Did you just swear? : I may have.
	BrE	Did you just swear? : I may have done.

C	AmE	Will he pass the test? : He should.
	BrE	Will he pass the test? : He should do.



## PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions are pesky little things. These short words, used to indicate a relationship of space or time between two nouns, are used with occasional variance in American and British English. The most common differences are outlined in the following entries:

### AT vs ON/IN

Americans use “on” and “in” in certain expressions of time and to talk about what they learned in an educational program. Britons prefer to use “at” in these instances.

A	AmE	I'm going to a pub on the weekend.
	BrE	I'm going to a pub at the weekend.

B	AmE	I studied sociology in college.
	BrE	I studied sociology at university.

### FROM vs ON

In Britain, “from” is sometimes used when talking about specific dates for events. In these instances, Americans more often say “starting” or “on”.

C	AmE	The store will be open starting March 5th. The store will be open on March 5th.
	BrE	The store will be open from March 5th.

### IN vs ON

When referring to which street one might find something on/in, Americans use the preposition “on” while Britons use the preposition “in”.

D	AmE	I live on Center Street.
	BrE	I live in Center Street.

Note that Britons will keep the “on” before days of the week, but Americans may omit the preposition as they like.

E	AmE	I will go to the courthouse Thursday. I will go to the courthouse on Thursday.
	BrE	I will go to the courthouse on Thursday.

### TO vs THAN vs FROM

When discussing how something is unlike something else, both dialects use the preposition “from”. However, there are other prepositions that are used with the word “different”. In American English, “than” often follows “different”; in British English, “to” is preferred. When in doubt, one can never go wrong with the universally loved “from”.

F	AmE	She is different than her twin brother.
	BrE	She is different to her twin brother.
	both	She is different from her twin brother.

### TILL vs THROUGH

When talking about an action that spans a number of days, Americans prefer to use “through” while Britons prefer to use “till”.

G	AmE	I worked Monday through Friday last week
	BrE	I worked Monday till Friday last week.

### RESTRICTIVE and NONRESTRICTIVE CLAUSES

Restrictive clauses are clauses whose presence is essential to the meaning of a sentence. Nonrestrictive clauses are, on the other hand, clauses which are not necessary to the meaning of a sentence.

Owing to their nonessential status, nonrestrictive clauses are always set off by commas. Because “that” cannot be used with non-restrictive clauses, certain grammar fanatics once attributed a similar exclusivity between “which” and restrictive clauses in American English. In British English, however, “which” can be used freely in either clause type.

A	AmE	This is something that I learned in college.
	BrE	This is something which I learned in college.

B	AmE	The store, which opened its doors in 1950, was a landmark of the small town.
	BrE	The store, which opened its doors in 1950, was a landmark of the small town.

Note that American usage is catching up to British usage; today, this prescriptive rule is retained mostly in academic writing.

## RIVER NAMES

Though a seemingly innocuous rule, one wouldn't want to be caught with their pants around their ankles on it. In American English, the name of the river comes before the word "river". In British English, the opposite is true. Note that this is the case only for rivers named by each national dialect. Most people use the proper name given by the local national dialect.

A	AmE	The Colorado River cuts through multiple states.
	BrE	The River Thames flows through the center of London.

## SAT vs SAT, SITTING, and SEATED

British English allows for using "sat" to cover past and present participle usage of the verb "to sit". While once a feature of Northern England dialects, it has spread out to general British usage. Americans use the forms "sat", "sitting", and "seated" instead. One should note that the British usage allows for all three forms as well, and the universal use of "sat" is generally seen as informal.

A	AmE	I have been sitting here for over an hour.
	BrE	I have been sat here for over an hour.

B	AmE	You will be seated next to each other.
	BrE	You will be sat next to each other.

## SHALL vs WILL and SHOULD

The snobbiness of particular British dialects is on full display in this linguistic conundrum. Where Americans would happily use "will" to discuss future events, posh Brits might use the modal "shall". Similarly, when an American asks whether or not something would be appropriate to do, they would begin their question with "should". A Brit might choose to begin their question with "shall". At any rate, to American ears, the word "shall" screams of fainting onto velvet chaises and scolding butlers.

A	AmE	My father will hear about this.
	BrE	My father shall hear about this.

B	AmE	I will fight him myself.
	BrE	I shall fight him myself.

C	AmE	Should I make breakfast?
	BrE	Shall I make breakfast?

### SINGULAR ATTRIBUTIVES

For this issue, both sides of the pond fall on either side of the argument. Britons use a singular attributive where Americans use a plural and vice versa. One should research any unfamiliar attributives.

A	AmE	The US has a massive drug problem.
	BrE	The UK has a massive drugs problem.

B	AmE	Read more in today's sports section.
	BrE	Read more in today's sport section.

### -ST

Words like “among” and “while” are used exclusively in these forms in American English. On occasion, a Briton might use the forms “amongst” or “whilst” instead. To American ears, these -st words seem needlessly pretentious.

A	AmE	It is good to be among family.
	BrE	It is good to be among family. It is good to be amongst family.

B	AmE	Will you please be quiet while I study?
	BrE	Will you please be quiet while I study? Will you please be quiet whilst I study?

### STATEMENTS of INTENTION

When declaring what one intends to do, an American will omit the word “and” between “go” and the bare infinitive, while Britons are more likely to keep this “and”.

A	AmE	I'll go talk with him.
	BrE	I'll go and talk with him.

B	AmE	She'll go get dressed before we leave.
	BrE	She'll go and get dressed before we leave.

### TAGS

Tags are little things we attach to the end of spoken questions or statements to beg for validation from the listener. While both nationalects use tags in more or less the same way, it is more common to hear them in British English. This is especially true of statement tags, which are almost never found in spoken American English. It seems that, unsurprisingly, Americans simply do not care for the validation of others.

A	AmE	It's a bit cold, isn't it?
	BrE	It's a bit cold, innit?

B	AmE	She's a hard worker.
	BrE	She's a hard worker, she is.

C	AmE	He doesn't like me.
	BrE	He doesn't like me, does he?

### -WARDS vs -WARD

This entry could easily fall under the spelling category as much as the usage. For words with the suffix “-wards”, Americans prefer to drop the final “-s” for a simple “-ward”. While both renditions are generally accepted, British folk lean toward(s) the preserved “-wards”.

A	AmE	backward, forward, toward, afterward
	BrE	backwards, forwards, towards, afterwards

### WELL vs VERY

In some dialects of British English, “well” can be used in place of the adverb “very” to describe something.

A	AmE	That performance was very good.
	BrE	That performance was well good.

# SPELLING

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The history of spelling is, as a general rule, winding and complicated. English is a non-phonetic language, meaning words are not necessarily pronounced in a way consistent with their spelling. As American and British English diverged, certain spelling standards were preserved or adopted in one national dialect but not the other. A skilled editor simply needs to know the standard rules separating American and British spelling.

The entries are ordered alphabetically by the American spelling rule.

## -CTION vs -XION

While this distinction is becoming increasingly obsolete, it is helpful to know—should one stumble upon an example in the wild—where the unfamiliar form comes from. There are a few instances where words ending in -ction in American English are spelled with -xion in British English.

AmE	connection, inflection, reflection
BrE	connexion, inflexion, reflexion

## DOUBLED CONSONANTS

This is one of the trickier rules because in some cases, words contain a double consonant only in the British spelling. In other cases, however, the double consonant is only found in the American rendition.

For some words, vowel and consonant placement can determine the doubling of any consonant. Even so, and as is often the case in English, plenty of words follow no discernable rule at all.

The double consonant is often found in the suffixes of past participles, present participles, and nominalizations.

Consonant doubled in AmE:

AmE	appall, distill, enroll, enthrall, fulfill, install, installment, instill, skillful
BrE	appal, distil, enrol, enthral, fulfil, instal, instalment, instil, skilful

## Consonant doubled in BrE:

<b>AmE</b>	backpedaled, banister, bedeviled, bejeweled, beveled, caliper, calisthenics, canceled, caroling, caviled, channeled, chili, clarinetist, councilor, counseled, counselor, crueller, dialed, disemboweled, disheveled, driveled, dueled, enameled, epaulet, filet, funneled, gram, graveled, groveled, grueling, impaneled, imperiled, jeweled, jeweler, jewelry, labeled, leveled, libeled, libelous, marshaled, marveled, marvelous, modeled, omelet, paneled, panelist, parceled, pedaled, penciled, program, pummeled, quarreled, raveled, refueled, remodeled, reveled, rivaled, shoveled, shriveled, signaled, sniveled, snorkeled, spiraled, squirreled, stenciled, swiveled, tasseled, ton, toweled, tranquilize, traveled, traveler, trialed, tunneled, unequalled, unraveled, unrivaled, untrammed, wagon, weaseled, woolen, woolies, worshiped, worshiper, yodeled
<b>BrE</b>	backpedalled, bannister, bedevilled, bejewelled, bevelled, calliper, callisthenics, cancelled, carolling, cavilled, channelled, chilli, clarinettist, councillor, counselled, counsellor, cruel-ler, dialled, disembowelled, dishevelled, drivelled, duelled, enamelled, epaulette, fillet, funnelled, gramme, gravelled, grovelled, gruelling, impanelled, imperilled, jewelled, jeweller, jewellery, labelled, levelled, libelled, libellous, marshalled, marvelled, marvellous, modelled, omelette, panelled, panel-list, parcelled, pedalled, pencilled, programme, pummelled, quarrelled, ravelled, refuelled, remodelled, revelled, rivalled, shovelled, shrivelled, signalled, snivelled, snorkelled, spiralled, squirrelled, stencilled, swivelled, tasselled, tonne, towelled, tranquillise, travelled, traveller, trialled, tunnelled, unequalled, unravelled, unrivalled, untrammelled, waggon, weaselled, woollen, woolies, worshipped, worshipper, yodelled

Note that in the above examples, the double consonant in past participle form is retained in present participle forms as well.

<b>AmE</b>	dialed, dialing, penciled, penciling, spiraled, spiraling
<b>BrE</b>	dialled, dialling, pencilled, pencilling, spiralled, spiralling

**-E- vs -AE- and -OE-**

These words are often borrowed from Greek and are related to science or medicine. In British English, the -ae- or -oe- is retained, while in American English, only -e- is used.

AmE	anemia, anesthesia, archeologist, cesarean, chimera, diarrhea, edema, encyclopedia, eon, esophagus, esthetic, estrogen, fecal, fetus, gonorrhoea, gynecologist, hemorrhages, hemorrhoids, homeopath, leukemia, maneuver, medieval, orthopedic, paleolithic, pediatrician, pedophile, presidium, primeval, toxemia
BrE	anaemia, anaesthesia, archaeologist, caesarean, chimaera, diarrhoea, edoema, encyclopaedia, aeon, oesophagus, aesthetic, oestrogen, faecal, foetus, gonorrhoea, gynaecologist, haemorrhages, haemorrhoids, homoeopath, leukaemia, manoeuvre, mediaeval, orthopaedic, palaeolithic, paediatrician, paedophile, praesidium, primaeval, toxaemia

**no -E vs -E**

To -e or not to -e. American English has chosen to cut the final -e from a number of words. The British, in their sentimentality, hold on to the vowel. Note that some of these words also include the double consonant distinction.

AmE	annex, epaulet, glycerin, gram, grill, program, ton
BrE	annexe, epaulette, glycerine, gramme, grille, programme, tonne

**-ED vs -T**

In British English, some verb forms in the past tense end in -t instead of -ed. This spelling distinction translates to a difference in pronunciation. For more information on this titillating subject, refer to the entry on past tense forms in the usage section of this guide.

AmE	burned, dreamed, earned, kneeled, leaped, leaned, learned, smelled, spelled, spoiled
BrE	burnt, dreamt, earnt, knelt, lept, leant, learnt, smelt, spelt, spoilt



**-ENSE vs -ENCE**

Some nouns in American English end in -ense; their British counterparts end in -ence.

<b>AmE</b>	defense, license, offense, pretense
<b>BrE</b>	defence, licence, offence, pretence

**-ER vs -RE**

Here, the swapping of these two letters can cause some confusion. Without attention to detail, the transposition of these two letters can be hard to catch at a quick glance.

<b>AmE</b>	caliber, center, fiber, liter, luster, maneuver, meager, meter, millimeter, miter, saber, scepter, sepulcher, somber, specter, theater
<b>BrE</b>	calibre, centre, fibre, litre, lustre, manoeuvre, meagre, metre, millimetre, mitre, sabre, sceptre, sepulchre, sombre, spectre, theatre

**no -GH- vs -GH-**

The American tendency to slash that which is unnecessary strikes again. Where the Britons are happy to retain their mouthful of letters, the Americans have chosen to cut down these words. In nearly every case, Americans made changes that were (or at least seem to be) phonetically appropriate.

<b>AmE</b>	donut, draft, draftsmen, plow, snowplow, yogurt
<b>BrE</b>	doughnut, draught, draughtsmen, plough, snowplough, yoghurt

**-IZE vs -ISE**

In Noah Webster's attempt to codify a more phonetic American English, he replaced -ise endings with -ize endings. In British English, most of these words can be used in either form. Using -ise in British English is a convention, not a rule.

## AmE

accessorize, acclimatize, aggrandizement, agonize, amortize, anaesthetize, anglicize, annualized, antagonize, apologize, appetizer, authorize, baptize, bastardize, brutalize, canalize, cannibalize, canonize, capitalize, caramelize, carbonize, categorize, cauterize, centralize, characterize, circularize, civilize, collectivize, colonize, commercialize, compartmentalize, computerize, conceptualize, contextualize, criminalize, criticize, crystalize, customize, decentralize, decriminalize, dehumanize, demilitarize, demobilize, democratize, demonize, demoralize, denationalize, deodorize, depersonalize, deputize, desensitize, destabilize, digitize, disorganized, dramatize, economize, editorialize, empathize, emphasize, energize, epitomize, equalize, eulogize, evangelize, exorcize, extemporize, externalize, factorize, familiarize, fantasize, feminize, fertilize, fertilizer, fictionalize, finalize, formalize, fossillize, fraternize, galvanize, generalize, ghettoize, galmorize, globalize, harmonize, homogenize, hospitalize, humanize, hybridize, hypnotize, hypothesize, idealize, idolize, immobilize, immortalize, immunize, individualize, industrialize, initialize, institutionalize, intellectualize, internalize, internationalize, ionize, italicize, itemize, jeopardize, legalize, legitimize, lionize, liquidize, localize, magnetize, marginalize, materialize, maximize, mechanize, memorialize, memorize, mesmerize, metabolize, militarize, miniaturize, minimize, mobilize, modernize, moisturize, monopolize, moralize, motorize, nationalize, naturalize, neutralize, normalize, optimize, organize, overemphasize, oxidize, particularize, passivize, pasteurize, patronize, pedestrianize, penalize, personalize, philosophize, plagiarize, polarize, politicize, popularize, pressurize, prioritize, privatize, professionalize, propagandize, proselytize, publicize, pulverize, radicalize, randomize, rationalize, realize, recognize, regularize, reorganize, revitalize, revolutionize, rhapsodize, ritualized, romanticize, sanitize, satirize, scandalize, scrutinize, secularize, sensationalize, sensitize, sentimentalize, serialize, sermonize, signalize, socialize, sodomize, solemnize, specialize, stabilize, standardize, sterilize, stigmatize, subsidize, summarize, symbolize, sympathize, synchronize, synthesize, systematize, tantalize, temporize, tenderize, terrorize, theorize, tranquillize, traumatize, trivialize, tyrannize, unauthorized, uncivilized, underutilized, unionize, unorganized, unrecognized, urbanize, utilize, vandalize, vaporize, verbalize, victimize, visualize, vocalize, vulcanized, vulgarize, westernize, womanize

## BrE

accessorise, acclimatise, aggrandisement, agonise, amortise, anaesthetise, anglicise, annualised, antagonise, apologise, appetiser, authorise, baptise, bastardise, brutalise, canalise, cannibalise, canonise, capitalise, caramelize, carbonise, categorise, cauterise, centralise, characterise, circularise, civilise, collectivise, colonise, commercialise, compartmentalise, computerise, conceptualise, contextualise, criminalise, criticise, crystalise, customise, decentralise, decriminalise, dehumanise, demilitarise, demobilise, democratise, demonise, demoralise, denationalise, deodorise, depersonalise, deputise, desensitise, destabilise, digitise, disorganised, dramatise, economise, editorialise, empathise, emphasise, energise, epitomise, equalise, eulogise, evangelise, exorcise, extemporise, externalise, factorise, familiarise, fantasise, feminise, fertilise, fertiliser, fictionalise, finalise, formalise, fossilise, fraternise, galvanise, generalise, ghettoise, galmorise, globalise, harmonise, homogenise, hospitalise, humanise, hybridise, hypnotise, hypothesise, idealise, idolise, immobilise, immortalise, immunise, individualise, industrialise, initialise, institutionalise, intellectualise, internalise, internationalise, ionise, italicise, itemise, jeopardise, legalise, legitimise, lionise, liquidise, localise, magnetise, marginalise, materialise, maximise, mechanise, memorialise, memorise, mesmerise, metabolise, militarise, miniaturise, minimise, mobilise, modernise, moisturise, monopolise, moralise, motorise, nationalise, naturalise, neutralise, normalise, optimise, organise, overemphasise, oxidise, particularise, passivise, pasteurise, patronise, pedestrianise, penalise, personalise, philosophise, plagiarise, polarise, politicise, popularise, pressurise, prioritise, privatise, professionalise, propagandise, proselytise, publicise, pulverise, radicalise, randomise, rationalise, realise, recognise, regularise, reorganise, revitalise, revolutionise, rhapsodise, ritualised, romanticise, sanitise, satirise, scandalise, scrutinise, secularise, sensationalise, sensitise, sentimentalise, serialise, sermonise, signalise, socialise, sodomise, solemnise, specialise, stabilise, standardise, sterilise, stigmatise, subsidise, summarise, symbolise, sympathise, synchronise, synthesise, systematise, tantalise, temporise, tenderise, terrorise, theorise, tranquillise, traumatise, trivialise, tyrannise, unauthorised, uncivilised, underutilised, unionise, unorganised, unrecognised, urbanise, utilise, vandalise, vaporise, verbalise, victimise, visualise, vocalise, vulcanised, vulgarise, westernise, womanise

This spelling rule applies to all the forms and variations of the root word.

<b>AmE</b>	symbolized, symbolizing, symbolizer, symbolizes
<b>BrE</b>	symbolised, symbolising, symboliser, symbolises

## MISCELLANEOUS

It is human nature to try and discern order from a disordered world. And yet one must, at times, be reconciled to the inherent chaos of nature. For some words in these competing dialects, there is no rule, rhyme, or reason for their disparity—at some point in history, however, one was born.

<b>AmE</b>	aging, airplane, almanacs, aluminum, artifact, ass, axe, check, cozy, curb, gray, licorice, mollus, mustache, pajamas, phony, practice, skeptical, sulfur, trapezoid, tire
<b>BrE</b>	ageing, aeroplane, almanacks, aluminium, artefact, arse, ax, cheque, cosy, kerb, grey, liquorice, mollusk, moustache, pyjamas, phoney, practise, sceptical, sulphur, trapezium, tyre

## -OG vs -OGUE

For words under this category, either version can be used in American English. Words ending in -og, however, are used exclusively in American English. Note that in publishing, the British spelling is preferred for terms relating to a narrative.

<b>AmE</b>	analog, catalog, dialog, epilog, monolog, prolog
<b>BrE</b>	analogue, catalogue, dialogue, epilogue, monologue, prologue

## -OR vs -OUR

This is one of the more prominent differences in spelling between the two nationalects. In British English, these words include the letter -u- between -o- and -r where no such inclusion exists in the American spelling.

<b>AmE</b>	arbor, armor, behavior, candor, clamor, color, demeanor, endeavor, favor, flavor, harbor, honor, humor, labor, mold, neighbor, odor, parlor, rancor, rigor, rumor, savior, savor, smolder, splendor, succor, tumor, valor, vigor
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<b>BrE</b>	arbour, armour, behaviour, candour, clamour, colour, demeanour, endeavour, favour, flavour, harbour, honour, humour, labour, mould, neighbour, odour, parlour, rancour, rigour, rumour, saviour, savour, smoulder, splendour, succour, tumour, valour, vigour
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This spelling rule applies to all the forms and variations of the root word.

<b>AmE</b>	laborer, laborious, laboring, labored, labors
<b>BrE</b>	labourer, labourious, labouring, laboured, labours

### **-YZE vs -YSE**

Similar to the distinction between *-ize* and *-ise*, American English goes with the more phonetic spelling. Unlike the *-ize/-ise* distinction, *-yze* is only acceptable in American English.

<b>AmE</b>	analyze, breathalyze, catalyze, paralyze, psychoanalyze
<b>BrE</b>	analyse, breathalyse, catalyse, paralyse, psychoanalyse

# PUNCTUATION

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Punctuation refers to any of the small marks one employs in their writing to delineate quotes, phrases, clauses, and sentences and to establish exclamation, question, or declaration. Rules for punctuation help establish a universal code of organization and meaning. As with other parts of English, however, America and Britain have chosen to diverge from a shared codex of punctuation rules in a number of instances; these are laid out in this section.

The entries are ordered alphabetically by the American punctuation rule.

## ABBREVIATED TITLES

When attaching abbreviated titles to one's name, Americans add a period to the end of the title, just in case the audience wonders where the rest of the word went. British English chooses to omit the period unless the last letter of the abbreviation is not the last letter of the full word.

A	AmE	Dr. Andrews wrote me a prescription.
	BrE	Dr Andrews wrote me a prescription.

B	AmE	I waved hello to Mrs. Donahue as we passed her house
	BrE	I waved hello to Mrs Donahue as we passed her house.

C	AmE	I am requesting a formal meeting with Prof. Honda about my thesis.
	BrE	I am requesting a formal meeting with Prof. Honda about my thesis.

## DASHES

American writers (rightfully) love the em dash (—); its length and weight perfectly carry the reader to the nonrestrictive information it introduces. In American English, these long dashes follow directly after the preceding information. There is no space on either side of the dash. Britons seem, on the other hand, afraid of how dominant the em dash appears to their unsuspecting reader. They opt for an en dash with a single space on each side.

A	AmE	The boy broke his promise—no one was all that shocked.
	BrE	The boy broke his promise – no one was all that shocked.

B	AmE	The three musketeers—Athos, Porthos, and Aramis— dueled in the courtyard.
	BrE	The three musketeers – Athos, Porthos, and Aramis – duelled in the courtyard.

### PARENTHESES vs BRACKETS

This distinction is more an issue of conflicting terminology. In American English, () are parentheses, [] are brackets, and {} are curly brackets or braces. In British English, () are brackets, [] are square brackets, and {} are curly brackets. Whichever set of terms one prefers to use, the rules for using each are the same in both national dialects. One should stay consistent in one's use of terms.

### PUNCTUATING QUOTATIONS

When punctuating the end of a quotation that finishes a clause or sentence, American English insists on placing the comma or period within the quotation marks—whether or not that punctuation is part of the quote. Britons, on the other hand, choose to place the punctuation outside of the quotation—which, if one were being honest with oneself, seems the sensible thing to do. Note that when it comes to other punctuation (?,!, etc.), both American and British usage places the mark outside of the quotation if the punctuation is not part of the quote.

A	AmE	Remember that the coach said not to “play too rough.”
	BrE	Remember that the coach said not to ‘play too rough’.

B	AmE	Even though my mom said, “don’t play with him anymore,” I couldn’t resist going to the game with Tim.
	BrE	Even though my mum said, ‘don’t play with him anymore’, I couldn’t resist going to the game with Tim.

C	AmE	Was it Descartes who said “I think, therefore I am”?
	BrE	Was it Descartes who said ‘I think, therefore I am’?

## QUOTATION MARKS

One must not assume that the subject of quotations has been fully addressed just yet. As another divide, Americans use double quotation marks for the main quote and single quotation marks for any embedded quote within the main quote. Britons, employing the opposite style, generally use single quotation marks for the main quote and double quotation marks for the embedded.

A	AmE	“Physics,” the professor began, “is the study of the laws of energy. As Einstein so appropriately said, ‘there is no logical path to these laws; only intuition.’”
	BrE	‘Physics,’ the professor began, ‘is the study of the laws of energy. As Einstein so appropriately said, “there is no logical path to these laws; only intuition.”’

B	AmE	“My mom told me ‘don’t stay out too late’ when I left the house,” Billy explained.
	BrE	‘My mum told me “don’t stay out too late” when I left the house’, Billy explained.

## TIME

When writing time in numerical format, American English insists on using a colon to separate the hour from the minute. In British English, however, one may choose to use either a period (full stop) or a colon to achieve the same goal.

A	AmE	The train arrives at 10:30 tomorrow morning.
	BrE	The train arrives at 10.30 tomorrow morning. The train arrives at 10.30 tomorrow morning.



# VOCABULARY

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While Britons and Americans may speak the same language, the specific terms they use can differ dramatically. In fact, beyond pronunciation, vocabulary is the most significant point of distinction between British and Americans varieties of English. Because of this, those unfamiliar with the terms used by their English-speaking compatriots across the Atlantic may find themselves confused.

In editing across these general dialects, it is helpful to understand which term is appropriate for a certain context. An editor must be able to catch, upon a glance, a term that would be unfamiliar to their target audience. For a book written by a British author, terms like “pram”, “boot”, and “chemist’s” might be appropriately substituted with “stroller”, “trunk”, and “drugstore” in the distribution of the book in US markets. On the other hand, there are times where the original word is best left unaltered, as it preserves the cultural context of the narrative. In each case, the role of the editor is to wield the red pen judiciously. As with any editing quandary, the highest priority is ensuring that what is written can be comprehended by the target audience.

This section lists and describes common words with different terms in American and British usage. This list includes the terms most commonly employed in general usage; regional dialects may have their own unique terms.

The following entries are ordered alphabetically by the British term.

## ANTICLOCKWISE vs COUNTERCLOCKWISE

When one moves opposite the rotational standard of a clock, one moves in an “anticlockwise” manner in Britain and a “counterclockwise” manner in the United States. However, in the waning popularity of the analog clock, both of these terms may soon succumb to linguistic obsolescence.

## AUTUMN vs FALL

That season in which the summer warmth fades to the march of a chilly winter is known as “autumn” in Britain and “fall” in the US, though many in the US understand—and sometimes use—“autumn.” The word “autumn” comes from the Latin “autumnus” and is considered snobby in the US. The preferred “fall” is convenient because, well, leaves fall down. Britons may

turn their nose up at the American term, but one suspects that they have not yet experienced the fantastic autumn leaves of New England.

## BABIES

For the sanity of all involved, both Great Britain and the United States have agreed to refer to the infant version of a human as a “baby”. This, however, is where the similarities both start and end. Walking through the streets of London, one would push their baby along in a “pram”. If one were, however, walking through the streets of New York, one would be pushing their baby along in a “stroller”. The baby, finding itself distressed, might find consolation from a false nipple, known as a “dummy” in Britain and a “pacifier” in the US. Then, upon digesting and relieving itself, this same baby would cry out for a change of its “nappy”, were it in Britain, or “diaper”, were it in the United States. At the unfortunate hour when the milk comes from the baby’s opposite end, its mother or father would need to clean up its “sick” in Britain or its “throw-up” in the United States.

## BISCUIT vs COOKIE

A culinary linguistic scandal arises. Those sweet, small, flat, round pastries which are frequently dunked in milk are known as “biscuits” in Britain and “cookies” in America. Americans use the term “biscuit” to refer to an unsweet, leavened bread pastry of similar size to a cookie. The Brits enjoy their biscuits with tea, while Americans enjoy their biscuits with a bucket of fried chicken. This should come as no surprise.

## GARBAGE

Refuse which must be discarded is referred to as “rubbish” by Brits and “trash” by Americans. Both groups use the same word as an adjective to describe something which isn’t good. The receptacle into which one discards their refuse is a “bin”, were one from Britain, and a “trash can” or “garbage can”, were one from the US. By extension, the public worker whose job it is to retrieve this refuse on a designated day of the week is a British “binman” and an American “garbageman”. Note that these terms retain their gendered status, as “garbage person” still carries a different connotation. Additionally, the vehicle which is driven by this public employee to retrieve said refuse is a “bin lorry” in Britain and a “garbage truck” in the US.

## CARS

Different parts of a car go by different names in each nation. The rear of a car, into which one places groceries, gym bags, and any assortment of oddities, is referred to as a “boot” in Britain and a “trunk” in the US. The metal sheet, typically at the front of the car, which covers the engine and other important mechanical apparatuses, is the “bonnet” in Britain and

the “hood” in the US. To demonstrate an intention to turn or change lanes, a Brit would use their “indicator”, while an American would use their “blinker”. As rain falls on the car and obscures the driver’s vision, a British driver would find it necessary to wipe their “windscreen”, while an American driver would similarly attempt to wipe their “windshield”. In a vehicle of the manual designation, a British driver would change gears using a “gear lever”, while an American driver would change gears using a “gear shift”. Finally, upon being stopped by the police for reckless driving, a Brit will be asked to present their “driving license”—an American, their “driver’s license”. The officer will note the driver’s information, including the car’s “number plate” in Britain or “license plate” in the US.

### **CAR PARK vs PARKING LOT**

A place that’s designed for the parking of vehicles is known in Britain as a “car park” and in the US as a “parking lot”. In this instance, the Britons decided that a straightforward, caveman-esque utterance would suffice, leaving them little justification for teasing the beloved “sidewalk”.

### **CHEMIST’S vs DRUGSTORE**

A shop where one can retrieve their pharmaceuticals is a “chemist’s” in Britain and a “drugstore” in the United States. The British usage evokes images of white-coat-clad scientists huddled around beakers and flasks, carefully concocting the customer’s medicine. The US usage, on the other hand, is a bit more on the nose, as it were.

### **CHIPS vs FRENCH FRIES**

Thinly sliced potatoes fried in oil and served with a side of ketchup are known—lovingly—as “chips” in Britain and “french fries” in the US. The British aversion to associating anything so lovely with their odious neighbors, the French, is obvious.

### **CINEMA vs MOVIE THEATER**

A place where people gather, popcorn and drink in hand, to watch Hollywood’s latest blockbuster flick would be a “cinema” in a town in Britain and a “movie theater” in a town in the US. Note also that the Brit would be more inclined to watch a “film”, while the Yank would watch a “movie”.

### **CRISPS vs CHIPS**

Even more thinly sliced potatoes, fried until brittle and crispy, are referred to as “crisps” in Britain and “chips” in the US. Clearly, we have run into issues identifying common terms for the many ways we’ve learned to eat potatoes.

### **DRAWING PIN vs THUMB TACK**

A small nail used to fasten things to a wall or corkboard is a “drawing pin”

in Britain and a “thumbtack” in the US.

## EDUCATION

The first few years of a child’s education is taken in “primary school” were the child a pupil of a British institution. An American child at the same point attends “elementary school”. From there, the British child will progress to “secondary school”, which seems a logical step. The American student moves from elementary school to “junior high” or “middle school”, and from there to “high school”. Upon graduation, the child, now blossoming into adulthood, might choose to attend an institution of higher learning. “Uni” is the shorthand term commonly used by Brits. Americans use “college” most commonly, even though there is a technical difference between “college” and “university”. The years of a university education are thus (British=American) : “first year”=“freshman”, “second year”=“sophomore”, “third year”=“junior”, “fourth year”=“senior”. Also, note that “school” can be used to refer to education at any point in America; in Britain, “school” is only used only for pre-university education.

## EGGY BREAD vs FRENCH TOAST

Once again, the longstanding rivalry between England and France has prevented the former from applying a French reference to a delicacy. In this case, the Brits prefer calling a dish wherein a slice of bread is dipped in egg yolk, fried, and served with powdered sugar, syrup, or jam “eggy bread”.

## FOOTBALL vs SOCCER

There are some things which, despite overwhelming adoption by the rest of the world, remain vehemently opposed to by the United States of America—cough, cough, metric system. The name of the internationally loved sport wherein a ball is kicked from one side of a field to another in an attempt to insert it into a rectangular net is one such issue. The Brits call this sport “football”, as does most of the rest of the world. This seems fair, as the sport was developed on England’s fair and pleasant meadows. Fairness be damned, however, as Americans call the sport “soccer”, even though we’re really not very good at it. To be fair, we already have our own football, despite the sport’s minimal contact between a foot and the ball.

In a case of pure irony, the term “soccer” was taught to Americans by the English decades ago.

## FORTNIGHT vs TWO WEEKS

In some instances, one might feel the need to speak about something that happened 14 days ago, will happen in 14 days, or happens over a 14-day period. The British, looking to spice up their language with a little drama, use “fortnight” to talk about this period. Americans stick to the plain ole “two weeks”.

### **FULL STOP vs PERIOD**

The small point used to punctuate the end of a sentence ( . ) is known as a “full stop” in Britain and a “period” in the US. That would make a comma something like a rolling stop—or something.

### **GAMES**

Suppose one sits down with one’s friend for a nice evening of games. The friend, if she were British, might suggest a quick round of “noughts and crosses,” to which one, if he were American, might raise a quizzical eyebrow. After a brief explanation, however, the American would quickly identify this as the strategic game of “tic-tac-toe”.

Finding himself outmatched, the American might suggest switching to a game of “checkers”. The Brit, confused, soon remembers that this is the game of “draughts”. At this point, the American is so interested in why British games have such an affinity with the letters -ughts that he has completely surrendered any possible competitive advantage.

These two competitors might move on to any number of games which use a “pack of cards”, should one ask the Brit, or a “deck of cards”, should one ask the Yank. Finally, should a game end with equal scores for both parties, the round ends in a “draw” for the Brit and a “tie” for the American.

### **GARDEN vs YARD**

The expanse of grass, flora, and rock surrounding a domestic dwelling is a “garden” in Britain and a “yard” in the US.

### **GOOSE PIMPLES vs GOOSEBUMPS**

The atmosphere in the room has changed. One feels as though an ominous presence lurks in the shadows, waiting for an unsuspecting victim. The air is cold and heavy. The hair on one’s arms stands on end, and small bumps dot the skin. If these were called “goose pimples”, the speaker is likely British; if “goosebumps”, American.

### **GROUND FLOOR vs FIRST FLOOR**

When walking into a home or office, the floor at ground level is the “ground floor” in Britain and the “first floor” in the US. To add to the confusion, the floor above this floor is the “first floor” in Britain and the “second floor” in the US.

### **HEADMASTER vs PRINCIPAL**

One must have a stiff upper lip to endure even the threat of being sent to this figure’s office.

The authoritative head of a school, to which wayward pupils are sent to be

reprimanded, is the British “headmaster” or the American “principal”.

## HERBS & VEGETABLES

The only difference between the two dialects concerning the word “herbs” is that the Brits insist on pronouncing the h with full vim and vigor. Distinctions can be found, however, in the names of specific herbs and vegetables. British “coriander” is American “cilantro”. British “rocket” is American “arugula”. An “aubergine” in Britain is an “eggplant” in the US—wink wink. Americans took the British “beetroot” and cut it down to “beet”. British “cos lettuce” is American “romaine lettuce”. British “courgette” is American “zucchini”. British “spring onions” are American “green onions”. The British (or, sneakily, the French) “mangetout” is an American “snow pea”. British “sweet potatoes” can go by the same name in the US or by “yam”. British “chickpeas” are American “garbanzo beans”. At some point, a conference had best be convened to sever the French hold off of British produce; the US will gladly share their terms.

## HOLIDAY vs VACATION

A trip in which one leaves their home and visits, for leisure or sport, a new and exciting place is known as a “holiday” in Britain and a “vacation” in the US. In the US, “holiday” refers only to specific days in the year with cultural or religious significance e.g. Christmas, Easter, 7-11 Day, etc. The British usage is, admittedly, a bit more tantalizing.

## HOOVER vs VACUUM

A device which, by some unknown sorcery, sucks up debris from the floor is a “hoover” in Britain and a “vacuum” in the US. Somewhat ironically, the prevalence of “hoover” in the British vocabulary is the result of a successful advertising campaign from an American vacuum company.

## HOUSING

A living space which is built on one floor and is surrounded by similar spaces in the same building is known as a “flat” in Britain and an “apartment” in the US. One should note that in Britain, the term “apartment” is sometimes used to describe a fancy flat. A house which is connected on one side to another dwelling is a “semi-detached” in Britain and a “duplex” in the US. A British “housing estate” is equivalent to an American “sub-division”. If one were looking to purchase a property, one would be led to different options by a British “estate agent” or an American “realtor”.

## JACKET POTATO vs BAKED POTATO

We return again to the potato. A potato which has been baked and is topped with an assortment of vegetables, meats, and condiments is referred to as a “jacket potato” in Britain and a “baked potato” in the US. In Britain, either term may be used, but in the US, “baked potato” is one’s only intelli-

gible option.

### **JUMPER vs SWEATER**

An article of thick, long-sleeved, hoodless clothing which, in the cold of winter, is worn over the torso in an attempt to preserve one's body heat is a "jumper" if one were protecting oneself from the chill of the British countryside and a "sweater" if one were protecting oneself from the icy winds of America's great plains. It should be noted that regional dialects in Britain have additional terms for this attire, including "jersey" and "pullover".

### **KIP vs NAP**

One might, following a filling lunch, feel the need to lie down for a small period of sleep. The British slumberer might go to "take a kip". The American would go to "take a nap".

### **KIT vs UNIFORM**

A standardized outfit—adorned with the proper colors, logos, and crest and used by school children, military personnel, retail employees, and sports teams—is a "kit" in Britain and a "uniform" in the United States. Whatever the term, this outfit, mandated for school children in countries like England, stokes the ire of independent children around the world.

### **LADYBIRD vs LADYBUG**

An insect with two red wings that are painted in black spots is, quizzically, a "ladybird" in Britain and a "ladybug" in the US. Forget the bizarre gendering of this beetle; on what planet does one mistake this tiny, six-legged creature for a bird?

### **LET vs RENT**

Were one the owner of a residential property, one might choose to "let" their place to a British tenant or "rent" the dwelling to an American tenant.

### **LIFT vs ELEVATOR**

That metal cage which one enters in a building to avoid taking the stairs is a "lift" in Britain and an "elevator" in the US. The Brits felt that "lift" provided a sufficient description of the machine's function. Americans, not shy of a little dramatic effect, opted for the more powerful and menacing "elevator."

### **LORRY vs TRUCK**

A large vehicle carrying goods, supplies, or equipment is a "lorry" in Britain and a "truck" in the US. The US makes a further effort to distinguish eighteen wheelers from pickup trucks. Considering the truck-per-capita disparity, it seems the US has some naming rights on this front. One who drives this vehicle is a "lorry driver" in Britain and a "truck driver" or

“trucker” in the US.

### **MAD vs CRAZY**

“Are you mad?” a Brit might ask if an American suggests they eat 5,000 calories of meat following a trip to the shooting range. The American, confused, might respond, “how does that make me angry?” And so our intercultural confusions persist.

### **MADE REDUNDANT vs LAID OFF vs FIRED**

Losing one’s job often makes for a fairly crummy day. In Britain, one’s boss might break the news that one has been “made redundant.” In the US, one would only be “laid off” or “fired.” Redundancy refers to a job, and by extension the employee in that job, being removed from a company. In the US, this is expressed by the term “laid off.” Both terms indicate that the employee lost their job because of extraneous circumstances. To be fired, however, suggests fault on the part of the employee. Even so, the cold resonance of being “made redundant” feels distinctly British.

### **MATHS vs MATH**

That one -s really does a number on linguistic tensions. In both instances, we are using an abbreviated form of “mathematics,” which is simply too long as is. The Brits favor preserving that final -s, while the Americans are happy to say, “to hell with it.”

### **MEALS**

The Brits use a few different terms interchangeably for different mealtimes. What Americans would call “dinner”, Brits might call “dinner”, “supper”, or “tea”. This can be especially confusing to Americans, many of whom might think that “tea” refers to having a cup of the beverage with a cookie or two. Additionally, Brits often refer to a sweet, post-dinner snack as “pudding”, whether or not pudding is involved at all. Americans stick to the term “dessert” here.

### **MINCED MEAT vs GROUND MEAT**

Meat, like beef or pork, that has been reduced to small pieces and is used in a variety of dishes is “minced meat” in Britain and “ground meat” in the US. One must admit that the alliterative “minced meat” is more fun to say.

### **NOUGHT vs ZERO**

The number denoting nothingness, 0, is “nought” in Britain and “zero” in the US. Where the British might say, “I am staying in room eight-nought-three,” while an American would say, “I am staying in eight-zero-three.”

### **PARCEL vs PACKAGE**

A thing or group of things that is gathered together, placed into a box or



envelope, and shipped from one place to another is a “parcel”, were it being shipped within Britain, or a “package”, were it being shipped within the US.

### **PETROL vs GASOLINE**

The environment-degrading liquid that fuels the engines of cars, trucks, and planes is known as “petrol” in Britain and “gasoline” in the US. “Petrol” is a short version of the word “petroleum,” which is the oil used to make the substance. “Gasoline” is a loose eponym from the substance’s creator, John Cassell.

### **PITCH vs FIELD**

An expanse of land—usually made of grass or turf and painted with lines—on which a sport is played is a “pitch” in Britain and a “field” in the US.

### **PLASTER vs BAND-AID**

One has fallen to the road and scraped, with the full force of their weight pulled by gravity, one’s knee upon the pavement. To cover this wound, a small, adhesive dressing is required. This bandage is known in Britain as a “plaster”. The American, however, would search instead for a “bandaid”. At the end of the day, what’s important is one’s full recovery.

### **POST vs MAIL**

When receiving a package or letter from someone, a Brit would understand that as “post,” while an American would understand that as “mail.” This distinction is extended to “postbox” (vs “mailbox”) and “postman” (vs “mailman”). Americans surrendered at the “post office”, which both nations use. Finally, note that one should not forget to write the appropriate “postal code” for a letter going to London or “zip code” for a letter going to New York.

### **PRENUPTIAL CELEBRATIONS**

Before the celebration of a marriage, the close friends of both the bride and groom might throw a particularly hectic, salacious, and rowdy party for their soon-to-be-wed pal. The groom’s party, were it held in London, would be a “stag do”. The same party, were it held in Las Vegas, would be known as a “bachelor party”. On the other hand, the bride’s friends would throw her a “hen do” in Britain or a “bachelorette party” in the US. In this case, the animal theme of the British terms brings to itself a certain partying energy that the US equivalents seem to lack.

### **QUEUE vs LINE**

When waiting behind other people to order, board, or enter, one waits in a “queue” in Britain and a “line” in the US—perhaps Americans are simply suspicious of words that are 80% vowel.

## ROADS

If one were to travel across the Atlantic from the US to Britain, or vice versa, one would need to adjust to driving on the opposite side of the road. As if this challenge weren't daunting enough, both places have insisted on attributing different terms to their road types and features. A person whose employment involves ensuring the safe crossing of pedestrians across a road is a "lollipop man/lady" in Britain (how exciting) and a "crossguard" in the US (how disappointing). A British "dual carriageway" is an American "divided highway". A British speedster might jump onto a "motorway", while an American daredevil will get onto the "freeway" or "superhighway". This speedster, looking to achieve supremacy on the road, will "overtake" other vehicles on Britain's motorways or "pass" other motorists on American roads. Upon checking the map, this vehicular ne'er-do-well might decide to make a British "diversion" or an American "detour" to an enticing ice cream shop off the road. At some point later in their journey, they will likely encounter a road feature where cars drive in a large circle until they reach an exit in the direction they wish to travel. This is a "roundabout" in Britain and either a "roundabout" or "traffic circle" in the US. A stretch of road that runs above another road is a "fly-over" in Britain and an "overpass" in the US.

## RUBBER vs ERASER

That small pink or white apparatus used to smudge around pencil markings is a "rubber" in Britain and an "eraser" in the US. The Brits focus on the material that makes the apparatus, while the Americans focus on its function. One must be careful, though, as "rubber" is interchangeable with "condom" in the US.

## SIDEWALK vs PAVEMENT

The cement strip along the side of roads, upon which pedestrians are encouraged to stroll, jog, or otherwise meander, is known in Britain as "pavement" and in the US as "sidewalk." Brits are frankly unimpressed that we turned the idea of walking on the side into a single term. In America, "pavement" can be used to describe any paved area, road, or surface.

## SNOG vs MAKEOUT

To be lost in the throws of passionate kissing—tongue and all—is to be "snogging" in British nightclubs and "making out" at American parties. Both are colloquial terms.

## SOLICITOR / BARRISTER vs ATTORNEY

One whose profession requires an intricate understanding of the laws of the land and an ability to present legal arguments in front of a judge or jury is known as a "solicitor" or "barrister" in Britain and an "attorney" in the

United States. Beyond titles, there is also a distinction in dress code. British lawyers are expected to wear 18th century wigs in court, whereas American lawyers, wishing to avoid any more ridicule than they already receive, have abandoned such a practice. Note that there are differences between the roles and responsibilities of solicitors and barristers.

### **SPANNER vs WRENCH**

When one has a proclivity to tighten or loosen an assortment of nuts and bolts, one might pick up their “spanner” if one were living in Britain or their “wrench” if one were living in the US. In reality, it might not matter which one is chosen, as long as the job gets done

### **SWEETS vs CANDY**

Small sugary delicacies, which bravely support dentists across the world, are “sweets” in Britain and “candy” in the US. Nomenclature is not the important controversy, however. This cultural issue really comes down to one important question: whose is better?

### **TAKEAWAY vs TAKEOUT**

Exhausted from a long day of labor, one might decide to treat oneself to a meal from one’s favorite restaurant. Wanting to eat this meal at home, one will order their food “to go”. This meal, if one were from Britain, is a “take-away”. The same meal, were it procured in the US, would be “takeout”—a negligible, yet very real, distinction.

### **TITBIT vs TIDBIT**

A small and interesting—but usually unimportant—piece of information is a “titbit” in Britain and a “tidbit” in the US. The distinction comes in the voicing of the t sound in the US version of the word. Also, Brits seem to have an affinity for making things rhyme. Ironically, the origin of this distinction is, itself, a linguistic ti?bit of information.

### **TOILET vs LOO vs LAVATORY vs WC vs RESTROOM vs BATHROOM**

Things are about to get messy. Americans are not prone to acknowledging differences between similar things. A room that includes a toilet, sink, and/or a bath or shower is a “bathroom.” If one is in a public place or is feeling a bit more sophisticated, one could also use the term “restroom.” In Britain, these words are not thrown around so haphazardly. A “bathroom” is a room that has a bath. A “restroom” is a space where one can sit or lie down and rest. A “water closet” (WC) is a universal term for a room that includes a toilet, but one rarely hears those words used—but one would read “WC” on a sign. A “toilet,” “loo,” or “lavatory” is a room which includes a toilet. For Americans, “toilet” refers only to the appliance wherein one may relieve

oneself. For Brits, the term can apply to the entire space. It seems that little can be done to breach this linguistic divide.

### **TORCH vs FLASHLIGHT**

That magical device that emits a beam of light is a “torch” in Britain and a “flashlight” in the US. It seems the Brits long for a more dramatic, primitive age with their usage, while the Americans are content to combine two words to make a new one, *a la* “sidewalk.”

### **TROLLEY vs CART**

While one is perusing the aisles of one’s local grocery store, one might drop one’s selected products into a “trolley”, were one in a Tesco or Aldi. If one were, on the other hand, in an Albertsons or Walmart, one would be dropping their sugar-laden products into a “cart”.

### **TROUSERS vs PANTS**

This distinction is the source of frequent and amusing faux pas for Americans. That article of clothing which hugs the waist, adorns the legs, and extends to the ankles is known as “trousers” in Britain and “pants” in the US. An issue arises, however, as “pants” in Britain is the equivalent to the American “underwear.” Brits, please understand that if an American compliments your pants, they are \*likely\* not flirting with you. One should also note that Americans may use the term “trousers” to refer to dressier pants, like those used in a suit.

### **TUBE vs SUBWAY**

The method of transportation which involves hordes of people shoving themselves into subterranean train cars is known as the “tube” in Britain and the “subway” in the US. “Tube” provides a fairly accurate image of what these systems look like, and “subway” does well to describe a roadway under the ground.

### **ZEBRA CROSSING vs CROSSWALK**

A place where white lines create a pedestrian crossing across a road is a “zebra crossing” in Britain and a “crosswalk” in the US. In this instance, one must admit that the British term is much more fun to use.

### **ZED vs ZEE**

The last letter of the alphabet, after which the audience is invited to sing along during the next alphabetical recitation, is referred to as “zed” in Britain and “zee” in the United States.

# IDIOMS and SLANG

Idioms are phrases or expressions that have a non-literal meaning. Idioms represent figurative ideas attached to literal words, and without cultural context, their meanings are challenging to interpret.

Slang is similar; slang words are colloquial terms that are used more commonly in the speech of certain groups and contexts. Slang changes quickly based on cultural and linguistic trends, especially among younger speakers.

## IDIOMS

Some idioms are unique in American and British English, while others are the same on either side of the pond—besides a word or two in the expression. These idioms have equivalent meaning but are constructed differently. A careful editor will understand these nuanced differences. One should carefully note whether an idiom is used appropriately in its American or British context.

AmE	BrE
a drop in the bucket	a drop in the ocean
a home away from home	a home from home
a new lease on life	a new lease of life
a tempest in a teapot	a storm in a teacup
beating a dead horse	flogging a dead horse
can't see the forest for the trees	can't see the wood for the trees
could care less / couldn't care less	couldn't care less
don't have a clue	haven't (got) a clue
knock on wood	touch wood
lay of the land	lie of the land / lay of the land
not touch with a ten-foot pole	not touch with a bargepole
out of line	out of order
skeleton in the closet	skeleton in the cupboard
slowpoke	slowcoach

sweep under the rug	sweep under the carpet
take it with a grain of salt	take it with a pinch of salt
throw a monkey wrench into . . .	throw a spanner into . . .
to blow (toot) one's own horn	to blow one's own trumpet
to put your two cents in	to put your oar in to put your penn'orth in to put your tuppence worth in

## SLANG

Slang is the most challenging facet of English to cover; new words emerge into the colloquial lexicon just as quickly as others become obsolete. Some slang words are used exclusively by certain demographics or in specific geographic areas. In fact, an entire book could be written on slang from London.

For that reason, this section covers only the slang that is used broadly within each nationalect. Terms are only mentioned if they are present in one nationalect and not the other; i.e., if the same slang word is used in both nationalects, it is not included in the list.

One should note that slang terms are far more common in Britain than in America. For that reason, several British slang terms have no American equivalent.

These entries are alphabetized according to the British English term. Slurs and other derogatory terms are not included.

meaning	AmE	BrE
<i>very good</i>	awesome	ace
<i>drinks</i>	—	bevvy
<i>woman</i>	chick	bird
<i>a man</i>	dude	bloke
<i>adverb of degree to show emphasis</i>	—	bloody
<i>male friend</i>	bro	bruv/mate
<i>excited</i>	stoked	buzzin
<i>not in the mood to do</i>	—	can't be arsed
<i>rude term for lower class hooligan</i>	thug	chav

<i>amusingly naughty, insolent</i>	—	cheeky
<i>thank you</i>	—	cheers/ta
<i>extremely pleased</i>	—	chuffed
<i>mistake or failure</i>	—	cock-up
<i>get started or continue</i>	—	to crack on
<i>stupid</i>	—	daft
<i>adverb to replace "very"</i>	—	dead/proper
<i>risky</i>	sketchy	dodgy
<i>to waste time</i>	to slack off	to faff about
<i>to have romantic interest</i>	—	to fancy
<i>vagina</i>	—	fanny/minge
<i>physically attractive</i>	fine	fit
<i>manager or boss</i>	—	gaffer
<i>stupid person</i>	—	git/mug/ muppet/pillock
<i>mouth</i>	hole	gob
<i>to inform on someone</i>	to rat	to grass
<i>to be upset</i>	disappointed	gutted
<i>attempting something; attacking someone</i>	to take a shot	to have a go
<i>injection</i>	shot	jab
<i>short sleep</i>	nap	kip
<i>in a tired state</i>	exhausted	knackered/ shattered
<i>women's underwear</i>	panties	knickers
<i>penis</i>	johnson	knob/todger
<i>immature man</i>	bro	lad
<i>not true</i>	—	load of bollocks
<i>great or very nice</i>	—	lush
<i>gross or unpleasant</i>	nasty	minging
<i>of inferior quality or taste</i>	—	naff
<i>to steal something</i>	—	to nick

<i>intoxicated</i>	wasted/ hammered	pissed/plastered
<i>someone who is full of themselves</i>	—	prat/prick
<i>the single unit of currency</i>	buck (dollar)	quid (pound)
<i>have sex with</i>	to screw	to shag
<i>having little money</i>	broke	skint
<i>to intentionally miss school</i>	to ditch	to skive
<i>talk bad about someone</i>	—	slag off
<i>kiss passionately</i>	to make-out	to snog
<i>leave; get out of here</i>	—	sod off
<i>to be taken care of</i>	handled	sorted
<i>make fun of; tease</i>	—	take the mickey/ take the piss
<i>unlikeable person</i>	—	wanker
<i>complain</i>	to whine	to whinge/ to moan



# Vocabulary Index 1

These are vocabulary terms listed in alphabetical order by BRE spelling.

BrE	AmE
anticlockwise	counterclockwise
aubergine	eggplant
autumn	fall
beetroot	beet
bin	garbage can / trash can
biscuit	cookie
bonnet	hood
boot	trunk
car park	parking lot
chemist's	drugstore
chips	french fries
cinema	movie theater
coriander	cilantro
cos lettuce	romaine lettuce
courgette	zucchini
crisps	chips
dinner/supper/tea	dinner
diversion	detour
draughts	checkers

draw	tie
drawing pin	thumbtack
driving license	driver's license
dual carriageway	divided highway
dummy	pacifier
eggy bread	french toast
estate agent	realtor
film	movie
first year	freshman
flat	apartment
fly-over	overpass
football	soccer
fortnight	two weeks
fourth year	senior
full stop	period
garden	yard
gear lever	gear shift
goose pimples	goosebumps
ground floor	first floor
headmaster	principal
hen do	bachelorette party
holiday	vacation
hoover	vacuum

housing estate	sub-division
jacket potato	baked potato
jumper	sweater
kip	nap
kit	uniform
ladybird	ladybug
let	rent
lift	elevator
lollipop man/lady	crossguard
lorry	truck
mad	crazy
made redundant	laid off / fired
mangetout	snow pea
maths	math
minced meat	ground meat
motorway	freeway
motorway	freeway/superhighway
nappy	diaper
nought	zero
noughts and crosses	tic-tac-toe
number plate	license plate
overtake	pass
pack of cards	deck of cards

parcel	package
petrol	gasoline
pitch	field
post	mail
postal code	zip code
postbox	mailbox
postman	mailman
pram	stroller
primary school	elementary school
pudding	dessert
queue	line
rocket	arugula
roundabout	traffic circle
rubber	eraser
rubbish	garbage
rubbish	trash
second year	sophomore
secondary school	middle school, junior high, high school
semi-detached	duplex
sidewalk	pavement
snog	makeout
solicitor / barrister	attorney
spanner	wrench

spring onions	green onions
stag do	bachelor party
sweet potato	yam
sweets	candy
takeaway	takeout
third year	junior
titbit	tidbit
toilet / loo / lavatory / WC	restroom / bathroom
torch	flashlight
trolley	cart
trousers	pants
tube	subway
uni	college
windscreen	windshield
zebra crossing	crosswalk
zed	zee

# Vocabulary Index 2

These are vocabulary terms listed in alphabetical order by AME spelling.

BrE	AmE
apartment	flat
arugula	rocket
attorney	solicitor / barrister
bachelor party	stag do
bachelorette party	hen do
baked potato	jacket potato
beet	beetroot
candy	sweets
cart	trolley
checkers	draughts
chips	crisps
cilantro	coriander
college	uni
cookie	biscuit
counterclockwise	anticlockwise
crazy	mad
crossguard	lollipop man/lady
crosswalk	zebra crossing
deck of cards	pack of cards

dessert	pudding
detour	diversion
diaper	nappy
dinner	dinner/supper/tea
divided highway	dual carriageway
driver's license	driving license
drugstore	chemist's
duplex	semi-detached
eggplant	aubergine
elementary school	primary school
elevator	lift
eraser	rubber
fall	autumn
field	pitch
first floor	ground floor
flashlight	torch
freeway	motorway
freeway/superhighway	motorway
french fries	chips
french toast	eggy bread
freshman	first year
garbage	rubbish
garbage can / trash can	bin

gasoline	petrol
gear shift	gear lever
goosebumps	goose pimples
green onions	spring onions
ground meat	minced meat
hood	bonnet
junior	third year
ladybug	ladybird
laid off / fired	made redundant
license plate	number plate
line	queue
mail	post
mailbox	postbox
mailman	postman
makeout	snog
math	maths
middle school, junior high, high school	secondary school
movie	film
movie theater	cinema
nap	kip
overpass	fly-over
pacifier	dummy
package	parcel



pants	trousers
parking lot	car park
pass	overtake
pavement	sidewalk
period	full stop
principal	headmaster
realtor	estate agent
rent	let
restroom / bathroom	toilet / loo / lavatory / WC
romaine lettuce	cos lettuce
senior	fourth year
snow pea	mangetout
soccer	football
sophomore	second year
stroller	pram
sub-division	housing estate
subway	tube
sweater	jumper
takeout	takeaway
thumbtack	drawing pin
tic-tac-toe	noughts and crosses
tidbit	titbit
tie	draw

traffic circle	roundabout
trash	rubbish
truck	lorry
trunk	boot
two weeks	fortnight
uniform	kit
vacation	holiday
vacuum	hoover
windshield	windscreen
wrench	spanner
yam	sweet potato
yard	garden
zee	zed
zero	nought
zip code	postal code
zucchini	courgette

# Spelling Index

Spelling differences are ordered alphabetically by American standards.

AmE	BrE
-ction	-xion
connection, inflection, reflection	connexion, inflexion, reflexion
double consonant	double consonant
<p>appall, distill, enroll, enthrall, fulfill, install, installment, instill, skillful</p> <p>backpedaled, banister, bedeviled, bejeweled, beveled, caliper, calisthenics, canceled, caroling, caviled, channeled, chili, clarinetist, councilor, counseled, counselor, crueller, dialed, disemboweled, disheveled, driveled, dueled, enameled, epaulet, filet, funneled, gram, graveled, groveled, grueling, impaneled, imperiled, jeweled, jeweler, jewelry, labeled, leveled, libeled, libelous, marshaled, marveled, marvelous, modeled, omelet, paneled, panelist, parceled, pedaled, penciled, program, pummeled, quarreled, raveled, refueled, remodeled, reveled, rivaled, shoveled, shriveled, signaled, sniveled, snorkeled, spiraled, squirreled, stenciled, swiveled, tasseled, ton, toweled, tranquilize, traveled, traveler, trialed, tunneled, unequalled, unraveled, unrivalled, untrammeled, wagon, weaseled, woolen, woolies, worshiped, worshiper, yodeled</p>	<p>appal, distil, enrol, enthral, fulfil, instal, instalment, instil, skilful</p> <p>backpedalled, bannister, bedevilled, bejewelled, bevelled, calliper, callisthenics, cancelled, carolling, cavilled, channelled, chilli, clarinettist, councillor, counselled, counsellor, crueller, dialled, disembowelled, dishevelled, drivelled, duelled, enamelled, epaulette, fillet, funnelled, gramme, gravelled, grovelled, gruelling, impanelled, imperilled, jewelled, jeweller, jewellery, labelled, levelled, libelled, libellous, marshalled, marvelled, marvellous, modelled, omelette, panelled, panellist, parcelled, pedalled, pencilled, programme, pummelled, quarrelled, ravelled, refuelled, remodelled, revelled, rivalled, shovelled, shrivelled, signalled, snivelled, snorkelled, spiralled, squirrelled, stencilled, swivelled, tasselled, tonne, towelled, tranquillise, travelled, traveller, trialled, tunnelled, unequalled, unravelled, unrivalled, untrammelled, waggon, weaselled, woollen, woollies, worshipped, worshipper, yodelled</p>

-e-	-ae- / -oe-
anemia, anesthesia, archeologist, cesarean, chimera, diarrhea, edema, encyclopedia, eon, esophagus, esthetic, estrogen, fecal, fetus, gonorrhea, gynecologist, hemorrhages, hemorrhoids, homeopath, leukemia, maneuver, medieval, orthopedic, paleolithic, pediatrician, pedophile, presidium, primeval, toxemia	anaemia, anaesthesia, archaeologist, caesarean, chimaera, diarrhoea, edoema, encyclopaedia, aeon, oesophagus, aesthetic, oestrogen, faecal, foetus, gonorrhoea, gynaecologist, haemorrhages, haemorrhoids, homoeopath, leukaemia, manoeuvre, mediaeval, orthopaedic, palaeolithic, paediatrician, paedophile, praesidium, primaeval, toxaemia
no -e	-e
annex, epaulet, glycerin, gram, grill, program, ton	annexe, epaulette, glycerine, gramme, grille, programme, tonne
-ed	-t
burned, dreamed, earned, kneeled, leaped, leaned, learned, smelled, spelled, spoiled	burnt, dreamt, earnt, knelt, lept, leant, learnt, smelt, spelt, spoilt
-ense	-ence
defense, license, offense, pretense	defence, licence, offence, pretence
-er	-re
caliber, center, fiber, liter, luster, maneuver, meager, meter, millimeter, miter, saber, scepter, sepulcher, somber, specter, theater	calibre, centre, fibre, litre, lustre, manoeuvre, meagre, metre, millimetre, mitre, sabre, sceptre, sepulchre, sombre, spectre, theatre
no -gh-	-gh-
donut, draft, draftsmen, plow, snowplow, yogurt	doughnut, draught, draughtsmen, plough, snowplough, yoghurt
-ize	-ise
accessorize, acclimatize, aggrandizement, agonize, amortize, anaesthetize, anglicize, annualized, antagonize, apologize, appetizer, authorize, baptize, bastardize, brutalize, canalize, cannibalize, canonize, capitalize, caramelize, carbonize, categorize, cauterize,	accessorise, acclimatise, aggrandisement, agonise, amortise, anaesthetise, anglicise, annualised, antagonise, apologise, appetiser, authorise, baptise, bastardise, brutalise, canalise, cannibalise, canonise, capitalise, caramelize, carbonise, categorise, cauterise,

<p>centralize, characterize, circularize, civilize, collectivize, colonize, commercialize, compartmentalize, computerize, conceptualize, contextualize, criminalize, criticize, crystalize, customize, decentralize, decriminalize, dehumanize, demilitarize, demobilize, democratize, demonize, demoralize, denationalize, deodorize, depersonalize, deputize, desensitize, destabilize, digitize, disorganized, dramatize, economize, editorialize, empathize, emphasize, energize, epitomize, equalize, eulogize, evangelize, exorcize, extemporize, externalize, factorize, familiarize, fantasize, feminize, fertilize, fertilizer, fictionalize, finalize, formalize, fossillize, fraternize, galvanize, generalize, ghettoize, galморize, globalize, harmonize, homogenize, hospitalize, humanize, hybridize, hypnotize, hypothesize, idealize, idolize, immobilize, immortalize, immunize, individualize, industrialize, initialize, institutionalize, intellectualize, internalize, internationalize, ionize, italicize, itemize, jeopardize, legalize, legitimize, lionize, liquidize, localize, magnetize, marginalize, materialize, maximize, mechanize, memorialize, memorize, mesmerize, metabolize, militarize, miniaturize, minimize, mobilize, modernize, moisturize, monopolize, moralize, motorize, nationalize, naturalize, neutralize, normalize, optimize, organize, overemphasize, oxidize, particularize, passivize, pasteurize, patronize, pedestrianize, penalize, personalize, philosophize,</p>	<p>centralise, characterise, circularise, civilise, collectivise, colonise, commercialise, compartmentalise, computerise, conceptualise, contextualise, criminalise, criticise, crystalise, customise, decentralise, decriminalise, dehumanise, demilitarise, demobilise, democratise, demonise, demoralise, denationalise, deodorise, depersonalise, deputise, desensitise, destabilise, digitise, disorganised, dramatisе, economise, editorialise, empathise, emphasise, energise, epitomise, equalise, eulogise, evangelise, exorcise, extemporise, externalise, factorise, familiarise, fantasise, feminise, fertilise, fertiliser, fictionalise, finalise, formalise, fossillise, fraternise, galvanise, generalise, ghettoise, galморise, globalise, harmonise, homogenise, hospitalise, humanise, hybridise, hypnotise, hypothesise, idealise, idolise, immobilise, immortalise, immunise, individualise, industrialise, initialise, institutionalise, intellectualise, internalise, internationalise, ionise, italicise, itemise, jeopardise, legalise, legitimise, lionise, liquidise, localise, magnetise, marginalise, materialise, maximise, mechanise, memorialise, memorise, mesmerise, metabolise, militarise, miniaturise, minimise, mobilise, modernise, moisturise, monopolise, moralise, motorise, nationalise, naturalise, neutralise, normalise, optimise, organise, overemphasise, oxidise, particularise, passivise, pasteurise, patronise, pedestrianise, penalise, personalise, philosophise,</p>
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<p>plagiarize, polarize, politicize, popularize, pressurize, prioritize, privatize, professionalize, propagandize, proselytize, publicize, pulverize, radicalize, randomize, rationalize, realize, recognize, regularize, reorganize, revitalize, revolutionize, rhapsodize, ritualized, romanticize, sanitize, satirize, scandalize, scrutinize, secularize, sensationalize, sensitize, sentimentalize, serialize, sermonize, signalize, socialize, sodomize, solemnize, specialize, stabilize, standardize, sterilize, stigmatize, subsidize, summarize, symbolize, sympathize, synchronize, synthesize, systematize, tantalize, temporize, tenderize, terrorize, theorize, tranquillize, traumatize, trivialize, tyrannize, unauthorized, uncivilized, underutilized, unionize, unorganized, unrecognized, urbanize, utilize, vandalize, vaporize, verbalize, victimize, visualize, vocalize, vulcanized, vulgarize, westernize, womanize</p>	<p>plagiarise, polarise, politicise, popularise, pressurise, prioritise, privatise, professionalise, propagandise, proselytise, publicise, pulverise, radicalise, randomise, rationalise, realise, recognise, regularise, reorganise, revitalise, revolutionise, rhapsodise, ritualised, romanticise, sanitise, satirise, scandalise, scrutinise, secularise, sensationalise, sensitise, sentimentalise, serialise, sermonise, signalise, socialise, sodomise, solemnise, specialise, stabilise, standardise, sterilise, stigmatise, subsidise, summarise, symbolise, sympathise, synchronise, synthesise, systematise, tantalise, temporise, tenderise, terrorise, theorise, tranquillise, traumatise, trivialise, tyrannise, unauthorised, uncivilised, underutilised, unionise, unorganised, unrecognised, urbanise, utilise, vandalise, vaporise, verbalise, victimise, visualise, vocalise, vulcanised, vulgarise, westernise, womanise</p>
miscellaneous	miscellaneous
aging, airplane, almanacs, aluminum, artifact, ass, axe, check, cozy, curb, gray, licorice, mollus, mustache, pajamas, phony, practice, skeptical, sulfur, trapezoid, tire	ageing, aeroplane, almanacks, aluminium, artefact, arse, ax, cheque, cosy, kerb, grey, liquorice, mollusk, moustache, pyjamas, phoney, practise, sceptical, sulphur, trapezium, tyre
-og	-ogue
analog, catalog, dialog, epilog, monolog, prolog	analogue, catalogue, dialogue, epilogue, monologue, prologue

-or	-our
arbor, armor, behavior, candor, clamor, color, demeanor, endeavor, favor, flavor, harbor, honor, humor, labor, mold, neighbor, odor, parlor, rancor, rigor, rumor, savior, savor, smolder, splendor, succor, tumor, valor, vigor	arbour, armour, behaviour, candour, clamour, colour, demeanour, endeavour, favour, flavour, harbour, honour, humour, labour, mould, neighbour, odour, parlour, rancour, rigour, rumour, saviour, savour, smoulder, splendour, succour, tumour, valour, vigour
-yze	-yse
analyze, breathalyze, catalyze, para- lyze, psychoanalyze	analyse, breathalyse, catalyse, para- lyse, psychoanalyse

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