

U.S. Spelling versus British and Canadian Spellings

If you enjoy reading and have read books published in other English-speaking nations, you may have noticed inconsistencies in the spellings of certain words. Following are examples of words whose spellings differ depending on whether the writer is a U.S. writer, a British writer, or a Canadian writer:

In some cases, multiple variants of a word may be acceptable in a given country, as indicated by an asterisk (*). Here, however, only the most common usages appear.

<i>U.S.</i>	<i>British</i>	<i>Canadian</i>
acknowledgment	acknowledgement	acknowledgement
aging	ageing	aging
airplane	aeroplane	airplane
aluminum	aluminium	aluminum
amortize	amortise	amortize
amoxicillin	amoxycillin	amoxicillin
amphitheater	amphitheatre	amphitheatre
analog	analogue	analogue
anemia	anaemia	anemia
anemic	anaemic	anemic
anesthesia	anaesthesia	anaesthesia
anesthetic	anaesthetic	anaesthetic
analyze	analyse	analyze
apnea	apnoea	apnea
apologize	apologise	apologize
appall	appal	appall
appetizer	appetiser	appetizer
arbor	arbour	arbour
archeology	archaeology	archaeology
ardor	ardour	ardour

armor	armour	armour
armory	armoury	armoury
artifact	artefact	artifact
authorize	authorise	authorize
ax	axe	axe
bandanna	bandanna	bandana
baptize	baptise	baptize
barreled	barrelled	barrelled
barreling	barrelling	barrelling
behavior	behaviour	behaviour
behoove	behoove	behoove
belabor	belabour	belabour
Breathalyzer	Breathalyser	Breathalyzer
burned	burnt	burned
bused	bussed	bused
busing	bussing	busing
cauldron	cauldron	cauldron
caliber	calibre	calibre
canceled	cancelled	cancelled
canceling	cancelling	cancelling
candor	candour	candour
capitalize	capitalise	capitalize
caramelize	caramelise	caramelize
carburetor	carburettor	carburetor
catalog	catalogue	catalogue
catalyze	catalyse	catalyze
categorize	categorise	categorize
cauterize	cauterise	cauterize
center	centre	centre
centering	centring	centring

centimeter	centimetre	centimetre
centralize	centralise	centralize
Cesarean	Caesarean	Caesarian
characterize	characterise	characterize
check (noun: money draft)	cheque	cheque
checkered	chequered	checkered
chili	chilli	chili
civilization	civilisation	civilization
civilize	civilise	civilize
clamor	clamour	clamour
collectible	collectable	collectible
colonize	colonise	colonize
color	colour	colour
commercialize	commercialise	commercialize
computerize	computerise	computerize
convener	convenor	convenor
costumer	costumier	costumer
councilor	councillor	councillor
counselor	counsellor	counsellor
counseled	counselled	counselled
counseling	counselling	counselling
cozy	cosy	cozy
criticize	criticise	criticize
crystallization	crystallisation	crystallization
crystallize	crystallise	crystallize
curb (noun: raised edge of sidewalk)	kerb	curb
customize	customise	customize
defense	defence	defence
demeanor	demeanour	demeanour

dependent (noun)	dependant	dependant
diarrhea	diarrhoea	diarrhea
dietician	dietician	dietitian
digitize	digitise	digitize
disheveled	dishevelled	dishevelled
dolor	dolour	dolour
donut	doughnut	doughnut
draft (noun: current of air)	draught	draft
dreamed	dreamt	dreamt
dueled	duelled	dueled
dueling	duelling	duelling
edema	oedema	edema
empathize	empathise	empathize
emphasize	emphasise	emphasize
enamored	enamoured	enamoured
endeavor	endeavour	endeavour
enroll	enrol	enrol
enrollment	enrolment	enrolment
enthrall	enthral	enthrall
enthrallment	enthralment	enthrallment
eon	aeon	eon
epicenter	epicentre	epicentre
equalization	equalisation	equalization
equalize	equalise	equalize
equaled	equalled	equalled
equaling	equalling	equalling
esophagus	oesophagus	esophagus
estrogen	oestrogen	estrogen
familiarize	familiarise	familiarize
favor	favour	favour

favorite	favourite	favourite
fervor	fervour	fervour
fetid	foetid	fetid
fetus	foetus	fetus
fiber	fibre	fibre
flavor	flavour	flavour
flutist	flautist	flutist
fontanel	fontanelle	fontanelle
fueled	fuelled	fuelled
fueling	fuelling	fuelling
fulfill	fulfil	fulfil
funneled	funnelled	funnelled
funneling	funnelling	funnelling
furor	furore	furor
galvanize	galvanise	galvanize
generalize	generalise	generalize
glycerin	glycerine	glycerin
goiter	goitre	goitre
gonorrhea	gonorrhoea	gonorrhoea
gray	grey	grey
grueling	gruelling	gruelling
gynecology	gynaecology	gynecology
harbor	harbour	harbour
harmonize	harmonise	harmonize
hauler	haulier	hauler
hematology	haematology	hematology
hematoma	haematoma	hematoma
hemoglobin	haemoglobin	hemoglobin
hemophilia	haemophilia	hemophilia
hemorrhage	haemorrhage	hemorrhage

honor	honour	honour
honorable	honourable	honourable
honored	honoured	honoured
honoring	honouring	honouring
hospitalize	hospitalise	hospitalize
humor	humour	humour
hyperglycemia	hyperglycaemia	hyperglycemia
hypnotize	hypnotise	hypnotize
hypoglycemia	hypoglycaemia	hypoglycemia
hypothesize	hypothesise	hypothesize
idolize	idolise	idolize
immortalize	immortalise	immortalize
immunization	immunisation	immunization
immunize	immunise	immunize
industrialization	industrialisation	industrialization
industrialize	industrialise	industrialize
initialize	initialise	initialize
inquiry	enquiry	inquiry
installment	instalment	instalment*, installment
institutionalize	institutionalise	institutionalize
ionize	ionise	ionize
jail	gaol	jail
jeweled	jewelled	jewelled
jeweler	jeweller	jeweller
jewelry	jewellery	jewellery*, jewelry
judgment	judgement	judgement
labeled	labelled	labelled
labeling	labelling	labelling
labor	labour	labour
laborer	labourer	labourer

lasagna	lasagne	lasagna
leaned	leant	leaned
learned	learnt	learned
legalize	legalise	legalize
leukemia	leukaemia	leukemia
leveled	levelled	levelled
leveling	levelling	levelling
libeled	libelled	libelled
libeler	libeller	libeller
libelous	libellous	libellous
license (noun)	licence	licence
licorice	liquorice	licorice
liter	litre	litre
louver	louvre	louvre
louvered	louvred	louvred
luster	lustre	lustre
maneuver	manoeuvre	manoeuvre
marveled	marvelled	marvelled
marveling	marvelling	marvelling
marvelous	marvellous	marvellous
math	maths	math
matte (i.e., not glossy)	mat	matte
maximize	maximise	maximize
meager	meagre	meagre
memorialize	memorialise	memorialize
memorize	memorise	memorize
mesmerize	mesmerise	mesmerize
meter (i.e., unit of length)	metre	metre
militarize	militarise	militarize
miniaturization	miniaturisation	miniaturization

miniaturize	miniaturise	miniaturize
minimize	minimise	minimize
misdemeanor	misdemeanour	misdemeanour
miter	mitre	mitre
mobilize	mobilise	mobilize
modeled	modelled	modelled
modeling	modelling	modelling
mold	mould	mould
molder	moulder	moulder
mollusk	mollusc	mollusc
molt	moult	moult
mustache	moustache	moustache
naïveté	naivety	naïveté
neighbor	neighbour	neighbour
neighborhood	neighbourhood	neighbourhood
neutralize	neutralise	neutralize
ocher	ochre	ochre
odor	odour	odour
offense	offence	offence
omelet	omelette	omelette
optimization	optimisation	optimization
optimize	optimise	optimize
organization	organisation	organization
organize	organise	organize
orient	orientate	orient
oriented	orientated	oriented
orthopedic	orthopaedic	orthopaedic
oxidize	oxidise	oxidize
pajamas	pyjamas	pyjamas
Paleocene	Palaeocene	Paleocene

paneled	panelled	panelled
paralyze	paralyse	paralyze*, paralyse
parlor	parlour	parlour
paralleled	parallelled	parallelled
paralleling	parallelising	paralleling
pasteurize	pasteurise	pasteurize
pediatrics	paediatrics	pediatrics
pedophile	paedophile	pedophile
penalization	penalisation	penalization
penalize	penalise	penalize
personalize	personalise	personalize
philosophize	philosophise	philosophize
plagiarize	plagiarise	plagiarize
plow	plough	plow
polarize	polarise	polarize
practice (verb)	practise	practise
pretense	pretence	pretense
prioritize	prioritise	prioritize
privatize	privatise	privatize
program (noun: television show)	programme	program
pulverize	pulverise	pulverize
pummeled	pummelled	pummelled
pummeling	pummelling	pummelling
rancor	rancour	rancour
realize	realise	realize
recognize	recognise	recognize
repellent	repellant	repellent
reveled	revelled	revelled
reveler	reveller	reveller

reveling	revelling	revelling
rigor	rigour	rigour
rumor	rumour	rumour
saber	sabre	sabre
sanitization	sanitisation	sanitization
sanitize	sanitise	sanitize
sapor	sapour	sapour
savior	saviour	saviour
savor	savour	savour
savory	savoury	savoury
scepter	sceptre	sceptre
scrutinize	scrutinise	scrutinize
sensationalize	sensationalise	sensationalize
shriveled	shrivelled	shrivelled
shriveling	shrivelling	shrivelling
signaled	signalled	signalled
signaler	signaller	signaller
signaling	signalling	signalling
skeptic	sceptic	sceptic
skeptical	sceptical	sceptical
skillful	skilful	skilful
smelled	smelt	smelled
smolder	smoulder	smoulder
snorkeled	snorkelled	snorkelled
snorkeling	snorkelling	snorkelling
somber	sombre	sombre
specialize	specialise	specialize
specialty	speciality	specialty
specter	spectre	spectre
spiraled	spiralled	spiralled
spiraling	spiralling	spiralling

splendor	splendour	splendour
stabilize	stabilise	stabilize
standardization	standardisation	standardization
standardize	standardise	standardize
sterilize	sterilise	sterilize
story (i.e., building floor)	storey	storey
stylize	stylise	stylize
succor	succour	succour
sulfur	sulphur	sulphur
summarize	summarise	summarize
symbolize	symbolise	symbolize
synthesize	synthesise	synthesize
systemize	systemise	systemize
theater	theatre	theatre
tidbit	titbit	tidbit
tire (noun)	tyre	tire
ton	tonne	tonne
totaled	totalled	totalled
totaling	totalling	totalling
toward	towards	toward
tranquility	tranquillity	tranquillity
tranquilize	tranquillise	tranquillize
tranquilized	tranquillised	tranquillized
tranquilizer	tranquilliser	tranquillizer
tranquilizing	tranquillising	tranquillizing
traveled	travelled	travelled
traveler	traveller	traveller
traveling	travelling	travelling
triple	treble	triple
tumor	tumour	tumour

tunneled	tunnelled	tunnelled
tunneler	tunneller	tunneller
tunneling	tunnelling	tunnelling
unionize	unionise	unionize
utilize	utilise	utilize
valor	valour	valour
vapor	vapour	vapour
vaporization	vaporisation	vaporization
vaporize	vaporise	vaporize
vaporizer	vaporiser	vaporizer
vaporer	vapourer	vapourer
vise (noun: clamping device)	vice	vice
vigor	vigour	vigour
visualize	visualise	visualize
willful	wilful	wilful
willfully	wilfully	wilfully
willfulness	wilfulness	wilfulness
woolen	woollen	woollen
yodeled	yodelled	yodelled
yodeling	yodelling	yodelling
yogurt	yogurt	yogourt