

Appendix: Spelling

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Examples of differences between British and American spelling

British English	American English
-ae- eg <i>aetiology, faeces, haematology</i>	-e- eg <i>etiology, feces, hematology</i>
-ce in nouns, -se in verbs eg <i>defence, licence/license, practice/practise</i>	-se in nouns and verbs eg <i>defense, license</i> (but <i>practice</i> as both noun and verb)
-ise or -ize* eg <i>organise/organize</i>	-ize eg <i>organize</i>
-isation or -ization* eg <i>organisation/organization</i>	-ization eg <i>organization</i>
-lled, -lling, -llor, etc. eg <i>labelled, travelling, councillor</i> (but <i>fulfil, skilful</i>)	-led, -ling, -lor, etc. eg <i>labeled, traveling, councilor</i> (but <i>fulfill, skillful</i>)
-oe- eg <i>diarrhoea, foetus, oestrogen</i>	-e- eg <i>diarrhea, fetus, estrogen</i>
-ogue eg <i>analogue, catalogue</i>	-og or -ogue eg <i>analog/analogue, catalog/catalogue</i>
-our eg <i>colour, behaviour, favour</i>	-or eg <i>color, behavior, favor</i>
-re eg <i>centre, fibre, metre, litre</i> (but <i>meter</i> for a measuring instrument)	-er eg <i>center, fiber, meter, liter</i>
-yse eg <i>analyse, dialyse</i>	-yze eg <i>analyze, dialyze</i>
aluminium	aluminum or aluminium**
grey	gray
mould	mold
programme (general) or program (computer)	program
sulphur or sulfur**	sulfur

*One ending should be used consistently.

**Recommended by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry and the Royal Society of Chemistry.

For more examples, see CSE (2014). If in doubt, consult a dictionary. Obviously, American and British English slightly differ not only in spelling but also in word use, grammar,

punctuation, etc. However, those differences are outside the scope of this document.

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