



SPELLING - BRITISH AND AMERICAN ENGLISH

British and American spelling differs in several ways. In most subjects at JCU, you are expected to consistently use British English (BE) spelling. Even if you are allowed to use American English (AE) spelling, it is important to stick to one style throughout your writing.

Here is a list of the main ways in which British and American spelling differs. For a comprehensive list of spelling differences, visit <http://www.tysto.com/uk-us-spelling-list.html>

	What you need to know.....	
1. Words ending with <i>-re</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BE words ending with <i>-re</i> often end with <i>-er</i> in AE: 	
	<u>British</u> centre metre litre	<u>American</u> center meter liter
2. Words ending with <i>-our</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BE words ending with <i>-our</i> usually end with <i>-or</i> in AE: 	
	<u>British</u> colour humour neighbour	<u>American</u> color humor neighbor
3. Words ending with <i>-ise or -ize</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BE verbs that can be spelled with either <i>-ise</i> or <i>-ize</i> at the end always end with <i>-ize</i> in AE: 	
	<u>British</u> apologize or apologise organize or organise recognize or recognise	<u>American</u> apologize organize recognize
4. Words ending with <i>-yse</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BE verbs ending with <i>-yse</i> always end with <i>-yze</i> in AE: 	
	<u>British</u> analyse paralyse catalyse	<u>American</u> analyze paralyze catalyze
5. Words ending with <i>ae or oe</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BE words spelled with the double vowels <i>ae</i> or <i>oe</i> are spelled with <i>e</i> only in AE: 	
	<u>British</u> oestrogen paediatric	<u>American</u> estrogen pediatric

	manoeuvr	maneuver
6. Words ending with <i>-ence</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BE nouns ending with <i>-ence</i> sometimes end with <i>-ense</i> in AE: 	
	<u>British</u> defence offence licence	<u>American</u> defense offense license
7. Words ending with <i>-ogue</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BE nouns ending with <i>-ogue</i> end with either <i>-og</i> or <i>-ogue</i> in AE: 	
	<u>British</u> analogue dialogue catalogue	<u>American</u> analog or analogue dialog or dialogue catalog or catalogue
8. Words ending with <i>al/el/il/ol/ul</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BE verbs ending with a vowel + 'l', double the 'l' when adding endings that begin with a vowel. In AE, the 'l' is not doubled: 	
	<u>British</u> travelled travelling traveller fuelled fuelling	<u>American</u> traveled traveling traveler fueled fueling
Useful links: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For a comprehensive list of spelling differences, visit http://www.tysto.com/uk-us-spelling-list.html 		
References: Oxford Dictionaries Language Matters. (2016). British and American spelling. Retrieved from https://www.oxfordreference.com/view/10.1093/acref/9780199545155.001.0001/acref-9780199545155-appendix-010		