

## **British English / American English: some differences**



<b>British English</b>	<b>American English</b>
aerial	antenna / aerial
aeroplane	airplane
alumunium	aluminum
annexe	annex
anticlockwise	counterclockwise
aubergine	eggplant
autumn	fall
bank holiday	legal holiday / federal holiday / national holiday / public holiday
barman, barmaid	bartender
barrister	attorney
bedside table	nightstand
bill (in a restaurant)	check
bin, bin liner	trash can, trash bag
biscuit	cookie, cracker
black pudding (boudin)	blood sausage
block of flats	apartment building
bloke	guy, dude
bonnet (capot)	hood
bookshop	bookstore
boot (coffre)	trunk
braces (bretelles)	suspenders
break (at school)	recess
candy floss(barbe à papa)	cotton candy
cab, cabbie	taxi, taxi driver

call box	phone booth
car park	parking lot
caravan (caravane)	trailer
cartaker	janitor
cash machine	ATM (= automated teller machine)
chemist's	drugstore
chest of drawers	dresser
chips	French fries
cinema	movies, movie theater
cling film	plastic wrap
cloakroom (vestiaire)	checkroom
clothes peg ( épinglé à linge)	clothespin
cornflour	cornstarch
cot	crib
courgette	zucchini
crisps	potato chips
cupboard	closet / cupboard (dans une cuisine)
cutlery	silverware
C.V.	resume
day return ticket	round trip ticket
dinner jacket	tuxedo
diversion (déviation)	detour
draughts (les dames, jeu)	checkers
draw (résultat nul, sport)	tie
drawing pin	thumb tack
dressng gown	bathrobe, robe
driving licence	driver's license
dummy (tétine)	pacifier
dustbin, dustman	garbage can, garbage collector/man
engaged (telephone)	busy
estate agent	real-estate broker, realtor
estate car (un break)	station wagon
exhaust pipe	tail pipe
expiry date	expiration date

fire brigade, fire engine	fire department, fire truck
first floor	second floor
fitted carpet	wall-to-wall carpeting
fizzy drink	soda
flat	apartment
flick knife	switchblade
flyover (autopont/ toboggan)	overpass
football	soccer
fringe (hair)	bangs
garden	yard
high street	main street
full stop	period
hire	rental
holiday, holidaymaker	vacation, vacationer
hoover	vacuum
ice lolly (sucette glacée)	popsicle
interval	intermission
jacket potato	baked potato
jam	jelly
jersey/jumper/ pullover	sweater
kerb (bordure du trottoir)	curb
knickers	panties
ladybird	lady bug
laundrette	laundromat
letter box	mail box
lift	elevator
lodger	roomer
loo / toilet	lavatory, bathroom, restroom
lorry	truck
luggage	baggage
mad	crazy / insane
maize	corn
manoeuvre	maneuver
minced meat, mince	ground meat, chopped meat

mobile phone	cell phone
motorway	highway, freeway
nappy	diaper
notice board	bulletin board
noughts and crosses ( jeu du morpion)	tic-tac-toe
number plate	license plate
off-licence	liquor store
off-the-peg	ready-to-wear
pack of cards	deck of cards
pants (sous-vêtements)	underpants, underwear
pastry case	pie crust
pavement	sidewalk
pedestrian crossing	crosswalk
petrol	gas
phone box	phone booth
pillar box	post box
pitch( terrain de sport)	field
plaster	band-aid
plough	plow
pneumatic drill	jackhammer
pocket money	allowance
porridge oats	oatmeal
post, postman	mail, mailman
postal code	zip code
pram	baby carriage
prawn	shrimp
programme	program
promenade	boardwalk
push chair	(child's) stroller
pyjamas	pajamas
queue	line
railway	railroad
reception (in a hotel or office)	front desk
removal van	moving van

roundabout (at a fair / in a road)	carousel / (traffic) circle
rubber	eraser
rubbish	garbage, trash
rucksack	backpack
serviette	napkin
shop, shop assistant, shopping centre	store, salesclerk, shopping mall
single ticket	one-way ticket
skip	dumpster
skipping rope	jump rope
solicitor	attorney
starter	appetizer
surgey	doctor's office
sweets	candy
tap	faucet, tap
telly	TV
the cinema	the movies
timber	lumber
timetable	schedule
tin	can
torch	flashlight
trainers	sneakers
tramcar	streetcar
trousers	Pants, slacks
underground	subway
value-added tax (VAT)	sales tax
waistcoat	vest
washing powder	laundry soap
windscreen	windshield
wing (aile de voiture)	fender
wing mirror	side-view mirror
windscreen	windshield
zebra crossing	crosswalk

This is a non-exhaustive list. Feel free to complete it.

## British and American spelling

There are several areas in which British and American spelling are different. The differences often come about because British English has tended to keep the spelling of words it has absorbed from other languages (e.g. French), while American English has adapted the spelling to reflect the way that the words actually sound when they're spoken.

Here are the main ways in which British and American spelling are different.

### **Words ending in -re**

British English words that end in *-re* often end in *-er* in American English:

<b>British</b>	<b>US</b>
centre	center
fibre	fiber
litre	liter
theatre	theater <b>or</b> theatre

### **Words ending in -our**

British English words ending in *-our* usually end in *-or* in American English:

<b>British</b>	<b>US</b>
colour	color
flavour	flavor
humour	humor
labour	labor
neighbour	neighbor

### **Words ending in -ize or -ise**

Verbs in British English that can be spelled with either *-ize* or *-ise* at the end are always spelled with *-ize* at the end in American English:

<b>British</b>	<b>US</b>
apologize <b>or</b> apologise	apologize
organize <b>or</b> organise	organize
recognize <b>or</b> recognise	recognize

### **Words ending in -yse**

Verbs in British English that end in *-yse* are always spelled *-yze* in American English:

<b>British</b>	<b>US</b>
analyse	analyze
breathalyse	breathalyze
paralyse	paralyze

### **Words ending in a vowel plus l**

In British spelling, verbs ending in a vowel plus *l* double the *l* when adding endings that begin with a vowel. In American English, the *l* is not doubled:

<b>British</b>	<b>US</b>
travel	travel
travelled	traveled
travelling	traveling
traveller	traveler
fuel	
fuelled	fueled
fuelling	fueling

### Words spelled with double vowels

British English words that are spelled with the double vowels *ae* or *oe* are just spelled with an *e* in American English:

British	US
leukaemia	leukemia
manoeuvre	maneuver
oestrogen	estrogen
paediatric	pediatric

Note that in American English, certain terms, such as *archaeology*, keep the *ae* spelling as standard, although the spelling with just the *e* (i.e. *archeology*) is usually acceptable as well.

### Nouns ending with –ence

Some nouns that end with *-ence* in British English are spelled *-ense* in American English:

British	US
defence	defense
licence	license
offence	offense
pretence	pretense

### Nouns ending with –ogue

Some nouns that end with *-ogue* in British English end with either *-og* or *-ogue* in American English:

British	US
analogue	analog <b>or</b> analogue
catalogue	catalog <b>or</b> catalogue
dialogue	dialog <b>or</b> dialogue

For tips about British English vs. American English pronunciation:

<https://www.espressoenglish.net/british-english-vs-american-english-pronunciation/>