

DIFFERENCES IN SPELLING



ENSE vs. ENCE

US	UK
Defense	Defence
License	Licence
Offense	Offence

ED vs. T

US	UK
Burned	Burnt
Dreamed	Dreamt
Learned	Learnt

ER vs. RE

US	UK
Center	Centre
Liter	Litre
Meter	Metre

SOME AMERICAN EXPRESSIONS

Bail: To leave abruptly.

Feeling blue: A feeling of depression/sadness.

A buck: Slang term for the American dollar.

By the skin of (my/your/his/her) teeth: Just barely.

Drive up the wall: To be irritated by someone/thing.

For real: A proclamation of honesty.

Hyped (adj.): A very excited state.

Hang out: To meet up casually for a social gathering.

Jack up: An abrupt increase, typically in the price of something.

Knock: To speak negatively about someone/something.

Lighten up: To request for somebody to stop being so uptight.

Piece of cake: A metaphor to describe something that is easy or effortless.

Pig out: A metaphor for binge eating/eating crazily.

Screw up: To make a mistake, i.e. mess up.

Sweet: An adjective that describes something that is good, or nice.

Trash: To destroy something.

Wrap up: To finish or complete something.

Zonked: Completely exhausted.

Source: www.smartling.com

DG/GU vs. DGE/GUE

US	UK
Abridgment	Abridgement
Argument	Argument *
Judgment	Judgement

IZE vs. ISE

US	UK
Analyze	Analyse
Criticize	Criticise
Recognize	Recognise

K vs. QUE

US	UK
Bank	Banque
Check	Cheque
Checker	Chequer

LL vs. L

US	UK
Enrollment	Enrolment
Fulfill	Fulfil
Skillful	Skilful

OG vs. OGUE

US	UK
Analog	Analogue
Catalog	Catalogue
Dialog	Dialogue

OR vs. OUR

US	UK
Color	Colour
Favorite	Favourite
Neighbor	Neighbour

*Argument is also commonly used in the UK as an alternative.

DIFFERENCES IN EVERYDAY VOCABULARY

American	British
Airplane	Aeroplane
Apartment	Flat
Candy	Sweet
Cell phone	Mobile
Cookie	Biscuit
Diaper	Nappy
Elevator	Lift
Eraser	Rubber
The Fall	Autumn
Fries	Chips
Gas	Petrol
Freeway/Highway	Motorway
Hungry	Peckish
Line	Queue
Mail	Post
Pants	Trousers
Pharmacy	Chemist
Restroom	Toilets
Sneakers	Trainers
Subway	Underground
Sweater	Jumper
Truck	Lorry
Trunk	Boot of car
Vacation	Holiday
Zucchini	Courgette

'People in America, when listening to radio, like to lean forward. People in Britain like to lean back.'

Alistair Cooke

PRESENT PERFECT VS PAST SIMPLE

As if life was not complicated enough in using the present perfect!

British English: The British can use the present perfect (have/has + participle) to talk about past actions that have an effect/consequence in the present. For example, I have lost my pen. I lost my pen in the past but have nothing to write with now.

American English: Americans use the present perfect and the past simple interchangeable. For example, I lost my pen or I have lost my pen. He feels ill. He ate too much.