

DIFFERENCES IN SPELLING
(Source Oxford University – LEXICO)



ENSE vs. ENCE		ED vs. T		ER vs. RE	
US	UK	US	UK	US	UK
Defense	Defence	Burned	Burnt	Center	Centre
License	Licence	Dreamed	Dreamt	Liter	Litre
Offense	Offence	Learned	Learnt	Meter	Metre

DG/GU vs. DGE/GUE		IZE vs. ISE		E vs. AE/OE	
US	UK	US	UK	US	UK
Abridgment	Abridgement	Analyze	Analyse	Maneuver	Manoeuvre
Argument	Argument *	Criticize	Criticise	Pediatric	Paediatric
Judgment	Judgement	Recognize	Recognise		

LL vs. L		OG vs. OGUE		OR vs. OUR	
US	UK	US	UK	US	UK
Enrollment	Enrolment	Analog	Analogue	Color	Colour
Fulfill	Fulfil	Catalog	Catalogue	Favorite	Favourite
Skillful	Skilful/Skillful	Dialog	Dialogue	Neighbor	Neighbour

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

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

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/Pharmacy
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 interchangeably. For example, I lost my pen or I have lost my pen. He feels ill. He ate too much.