

## Appendix: Spelling

European  
Association of  
Science  
Editors

### Examples of differences between British and American spelling



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

\*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.

Compiled by Sylwia Ufnalska  
sylwia.ufnalska@gmail.com