

## British VS

## American spelling



11-15  
15-18

1 h  
30 m

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the differences between British and American spelling
- Identify commonly used words with different spelling in British and American English
- Practice the use of both British and American spelling in written communication
- Appreciate the cultural and historical reasons of the differences in spelling

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Whiteboard and markers or projector for visual aids
- Handout with examples of British and American spellings
- Worksheets with exercises for students to practice using both British and American spellings
- Internet access for research and discussion

### LEARNING SCENARIO AND ACTIVITIES PROPOSED

#### 1) Introduction (10 minutes):

Ask the students if they have ever noticed differences in spelling between British and American English, and if they can give examples. Explain that in this lesson, you will explore the differences in spelling between British and American English, and practice using both spellings.

#### 2) Presentation (30 minutes):

Present a list of commonly used words with different spelling in British and American English, such as color (American) vs colour (British), theater (American) vs theatre (British), and realize (American) vs realise (British). Explain the reasons for the differences in spelling, such as historical and cultural influences.

Provide examples of differences in spelling beyond just adding or removing the letter "u" in words, such as the use of "z" vs "s" in words like recognize (American) vs recognise (British). Use visual aids such as a map of the UK and USA to show the regional differences in spelling.

### 3) Practice (40 minutes): Social Media Activity

Ask the students to research and find examples of British and American English spellings on social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram. In pairs or small groups, have the students share their findings and discuss any patterns or differences they noticed.

Here is a list of short videos of American vs British English pronunciation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8F7kaTtGL6o>

[https://www.instagram.com/english\\_withck/reel/Cya7vMeocIW/](https://www.instagram.com/english_withck/reel/Cya7vMeocIW/)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhEeQFmxcDI>

<https://www.tiktok.com/@zackhub101/video/7235253595640220929>

<https://www.tiktok.com/@pearsonlanguages/video/7208123909739187461>

<https://www.tiktok.com/@english.with.lucy/video/7106816057582554373>

<https://www.tiktok.com/@papateachme/video/7174182168871111941>

### 4) Conclusion (10 minutes):

As a class, discuss how social media has influenced the use of British and American English spellings in online communication.

## EXPECTED DIFFICULTIES AND PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

- Students may struggle to remember which spelling is British and which is American. Solution: Provide a handout with examples of commonly used words with different spelling in British and American English for students to refer to.
- Students may feel uncomfortable using unfamiliar spellings. Solution: Encourage the students to view the differences in spelling as an opportunity to broaden their linguistic skills, and to appreciate the cultural and historical reasons for the differences.

### ASSESSMENT

- Create a post or tweet using both British and American English spellings and compare the reactions and engagement they receive from their followers.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- British and American English are not the only forms of English with differences in spelling. Other forms of English such as Australian, Canadian, and South African English also have unique spelling differences.
- The differences in spelling between British and American English are not always consistent, and there are exceptions to the rules. Encourage students to research and explore the regional differences in spelling within the UK and USA.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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