

Key: Exercise American and British spellings

For the following words in **bold**: Choose American if it's in American spelling, choose British if it's in British spelling. Also write down the other missing spelling:

1. Have you ever been to the Kennedy Space **Center**?
 American _____ British centre
2. Can I have a **litre** of milk, please?
 American liter _____ British _____
3. If you want to lose weight, stop eating so many **donuts**.
 American _____ British doughnuts
4. He was wearing black jeans and a **grey** shirt.
 American gray _____ British _____
5. Yesterday, I bought some new blue **trousers**.
 American pants _____ British _____
6. She hadn't seen her friend in ages, she didn't **recognise** her at all.
 American recognize _____ British _____
7. They **analyzed** the test sample.
 American _____ British anaysed
8. Don't forget all the **favours** he's done for you in the past.
 American favours _____ British _____
9. She **modeled** for a popular fashion magazine.
 American _____ British modelled
10. All the houses in the estate are the same **color**.
 American _____ British colour
11. They sent us a **catalog** with new products.
 American _____ British catalogue
12. I was **travelling** in Asia for 2 months.
 American traveling _____ British _____
13. We both ordered burgers and **chips**.
 American (French) fries _____ British _____

Now try to put these **bolded** words from the exercise above into the following categories, and try to think of some additional examples:

Categories	Sentence numbers or words
<p>OUR VS OR</p> <p>Some words using -OUR in British English, and in -OR in American English</p>	<p>8) favour – favor 10) colour – color</p> <p>Others: humour - humor neighbour – neighbor</p>
<p>ISE/YSE VS IZE/YZE</p> <p>Some verbs ending in -ISE/YSE in British English, and -IZE/YZE in American English</p>	<p>6) recognise – recognize 7) analysed – analyzed</p> <p>Others: organise – organize realise - realize</p>
<p>OG VS OGUE</p> <p>Some words that use -OGUE in British English, and either -OG or -OGUE in American English</p>	<p>11) catalogue – catalog</p> <p>Others: dialogue – dialog or dialogue prologue – prolog or prologue</p>
<p>An extra 'L'</p> <p>Some words are spelled with double 'L' in British English, while it is more often only a single 'L' in American English</p>	<p>9) modelled – modeled 12) travelling – traveling</p> <p>Others: marvellous – marvelous fulfill – fulfil</p>
<p>ER vs RE</p> <p>Words that end -RE in British English often end in -ER in American English</p>	<p>1) centre – center 2) litre – liter</p> <p>Others: theatre – theater metre – meter</p>
<p>Simplifications and Different words</p> <p>Many words have adapted an American spelling, that is closer to its pronunciation (artefact vs. artifact), or have invented new words for the same thing (sweets vs. candy; jumper vs. sweatshirt/pullover)</p>	<p>3) doughnuts – donuts 4) grey – gray 5) trousers – pants 13) chips – (French) fries</p> <p>Others: sweets – candy torch – flashlight aeroplane – airplane coriander – cilantro petrol – gas</p>