

British English or American English?

Key Words

centre
center
flavour
flavor
defence
defense
travelled
traveled
organise
organize
programme
program

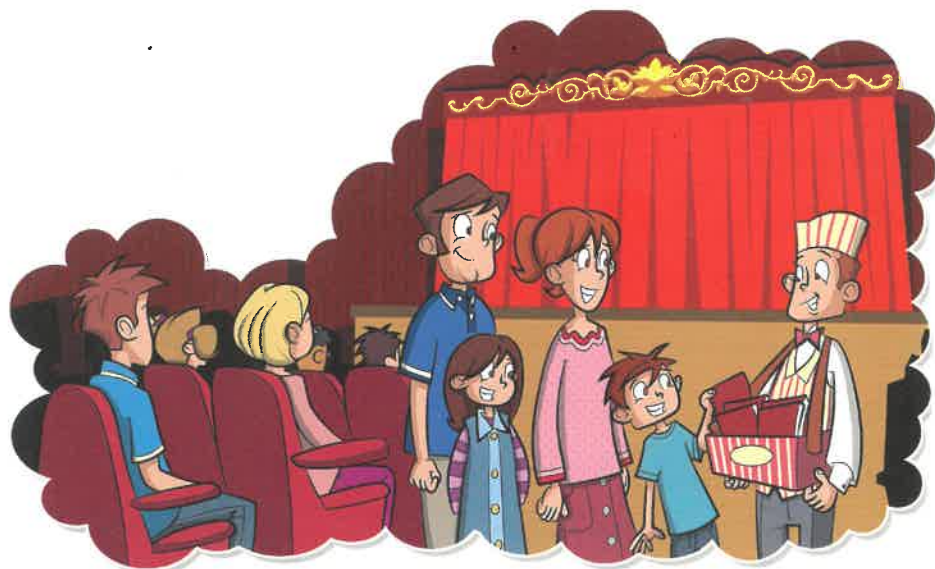


Focus

A Use the words in the key words box to help you work out how these American words are spelt in Britain. Write the answers in your book.

- 1 fiber 2 theater 3 flavor 4 harbor
5 offense 6 leveling 7 color 8 canceled

B Write a sentence about the differences you have noticed between the way American and British people spell their words.



Extra

Many of the words where the American spelling is different from British spelling were originally French words. Usually British spelling has kept closer to the French spellings whilst Americans have changed the spellings slightly. For example:

flavour flavor

A British words have kept the **our** in some French-derived words where Americans use **or**. In your book, write **British** or **American** for each of these words.

- 1 harbour 2 labor 3 humor 4 flavour
5 favorite 6 harboring 7 parlour 8 flavouring

B We are not always consistent when spelling words. Join together these root words and suffixes, but check your answer in a dictionary. Write a sentence to explain what you notice.

- 1 humour + ous 2 honour + able 3 colour + ing
4 vigour + ous 5 vapour + ise 6 honour + ary
7 discolour + ation 8 invigour + ate 9 humour + ist



Be very careful with these – they do unexpected things!

Extension

Copy these sentences, changing any American spellings to the British versions, as we would write them.

We went to the theater and first saw an incredibly humorous comedian with a gray, curly mustache.

We all thought his act was marvelous.

Second on the program was an aging pop star, dripping in cheap jewelry, who had traveled from New York to sing. Dad said he thought her voice was dreadful, and her dress didn't look as good as his old, colored pajamas!

"I hope they improve the caliber of their performers or I'm in favor of canceling the tickets we have bought for next month," he added.

"Where's your sense of humor gone?" joked Mum.