

## English Grammar – Changing Verbs

American English generally uses simpler spelling techniques. For example:

British English	American English
aluminium	aluminum
centre	center
cheque	check
colour	color
defence	defense
dialogue	dialog
favourite	favorite
fulfil	fulfill
humour	humor
jewellery	jewelry
kilometre	kilometer
neighbour	neighbor
plough	plow
realise	realize
theatre	theater
traveller	traveler
tyre	tire

American English has also changed some irregular verbs to regular, and today, both forms are accepted. American English generally uses the regular forms, and British English generally uses the irregular forms. Here are some examples:

Verb	Past Simple and Past Participle forms	
	British	American
to burn	burn → burnt → burnt	burn → burned → burned
to dive	dive → dove → dived	dive → dived → dived
to dream	dream → dreamt → dreamt	dream → dreamed → dreamed
to dwell	dwell → dwelt → dwelt	dwell → dwelled → dwelled
to fit	fit → fit → fit	fit → fitted → fitted
to hang	hang → hung → hung	hang → hanged → hanged
to kneel	kneel → knelt → knelt	kneel → kneeled → kneeled

to lean	lean → leant → leant	lean → leaned → leaned
to leap	leap → leapt → leapt	leap → leaped → leaped
to learn	learn → learnt → learnt	learn → learned → learned
to light	light → lit → lit	light → lighted → lighted
to quit	quit → quit → quit	quit → quitted → quitted
to shave	shave → shaved → shaven	shave → shaved → shaved
to show	show → showed → shown	show → showed → showed
to slay	slay → slew → slain	slay → slayed → slayed
to smell	smell → smelt → smelt	smell → smelled → smelled
to spell	spell → spelt → spelt	spell → spelled → spelled
to spill	spill → spilt → spilt	spill → spilled → spilled
to spoil	spoil → spoilt → spoilt	spoil → spoiled → spoiled
to strive	strive → strove → striven	strive → strived → strived
to wake	wake → woke → woken	wake → waked → waked
to wet	wet → wet → wet	wet → wetted → wetted

This process is continuing, sometimes by people making mistakes and sometimes deliberately. Languages are constantly evolving, but this particular trend certainly helps English learners!

Here are some example sentences:

British	American
He <b>burnt</b> his finger in the fire.	The candle <b>burned</b> all night.
I've always <b>dreamt</b> about being rich.	Bob <b>dreamed</b> about dragons all night.
We <b>learnt</b> a lot today in school.	She <b>learned</b> nothing useful yesterday.
I <b>smelt</b> coffee as soon as I <b>woke</b> up.	I <b>waked</b> up and <b>smelled</b> coffee.
He <b>spelt</b> my name incorrectly.	I <b>spelled</b> her name with a 'y' instead of 'i'.

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnnA4XgcWj8> (17 mins)