

 BRITISH English		 AMERICAN English	
Vowels			
-ae-	aetiology, anaemia, toxaemia, paediatrics, leukaemia, gynaecology, haemoglobin, haemorrhage, faeces	-e	etiology, anemia, toxemia, pediatrics, leukemia, gynecology, hemoglobin, hemorrhage, feces
-oe-	oedema, oesophagus, oestrogen, diarrhoea, amoeba, foetus (Note: BMJ uses fetus)	-e	edema, esophagus, estrogen, diarrhea, ameba, fetus
-ou-	mould, labour, colour, tumour*, behaviour	-o	mold, labor, color, tumor, behavior
-e-	judgement, acknowledgement, ageing	-	judgment, acknowledgment, aging
Endings			
-re	centre, theatre, centimetre, fibre	-er	center, theater, centimeter, fiber
-ogue	analogue, catalogue, dialogue	-og	analog, catalog, dialog
-ence	defence, offence, pretence, licence	-ense	defense, offense, pretense, license
-mme	programme	-m	program
Consonants			
-ph-	Traditionally: sulphur, sulphate International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry: sulfur, sulfate	-f-	sulfur, sulfate
-c-	sceptic, mollusc	-k-	skeptic, mollusk
-l-	appal, fulfil, distil, enrol instalment, enrolment (but install, compel)	-ll	appall, fulfill, distill, enroll installment, enrollment install, compel
-ll-	labelled, modelled, travelled	-l-	labeled, modeled, traveled
c/s	a practice, to practise to license, a licence	c/s	a practice, to practice to license, a license
-vise, -cise endings (from Greek)	Stay as ‘s’ advise, circumcise, exercise, improvise, incise, revise, supervise		Stay as ‘s’ advise, circumcise, exercise, improvise, incise, revise, supervise
-lyse endings (from the Greek ‘lysis’)	Always ‘s’ analyze, catalyse, dialyse, electrolyse, hydrolyse, paralyse	-lyze endings	Always ‘z’ analyze, catalyze, dialyze, electrolyze, hydrolyze, paralyze
-ise / -ize -isation or ization	categorise, localise, minimise, organisation OR categorize, localize, minimize, organization. (BMJ prefers ‘ise’ & ‘isation’)	-ize -ization	categorize, localize, minimize, organization
Punctuation			
Single quotes	‘Is that right?’ (But note: BMJ uses double quotes)	Double quotes	“Yes, it is.”
List comma	a, b and c OR: serial (Oxford) comma= a, b, and c (BMJ uses the serial comma)		a, b, and c

* Note: 'tumor' is becoming standard international spelling in gene + protein names e.g. 'tumor necrosis factor'