

# Words Frequently Misspelled — or Not.

Many will be accepted by spelling checkers. These are U.S. usages, following Associated Press style and its dictionary, Webster's New World College Dictionary, fifth edition. Where a dictionary lists something as an "alternate spelling," it is not the preferred spelling. If you *do* use an alternate spelling, make sure you use that same spelling throughout the document, and publication.

Misspelling	Correct spelling	Notes
<b>acomodate</b>	accommodate	Also misspelled as "acommodate."
<b>acknowledgement</b>	acknowledgment	"Acknowledgement" is listed in some dictionaries as an alternate spelling.
<b>baribituate</b>	barbiturate	
<b>bellweather</b>	bellwether	Nothing to do with "weather"; it's the goat or sheep with the bell at the front of the herd. "Wether" means it's gelded.
<b>benefitted</b>	benefited	"Benefitted" is listed in some dictionaries as an alternate spelling, and is the common British spelling. Also "benefiting."
<b>calender</b>	calendar	
<b>cancelation</b>	cancellation	
<b>cancelled</b>	canceled	"Cancelled" is listed in some dictionaries as an alternate spelling, but AP style is "canceled." Also "canceling" and "cancellation."
<b>cemetary</b>	cemetery	
<b>collectable</b>	collectible	"Collectable" is listed in some dictionaries as an alternate spelling.
<b>commited</b>	committed	
<b>concensus</b>	consensus	
<b>dietician</b>	dietitian	Some dictionaries and style guides accept "dietician" as an alternate spelling. WNW5 and AP do not, except in a group's name.
<b>embarasment</b>	embarrassment	Also misspelled as "embarrasment."
<b>exhiliarate</b>	exhilarate	
<b>existant</b>	existent	
<b>florescent</b>	fluorescent	"Florescent" means "in bloom." The light is "fluorescent," which is also misspelled as "flourescent."
<b>harrassment</b>	harassment	Also misspelled "harrassment."
<b>immanent</b>	imminent	"Immanent" is a word, but it means "inherent" or "intrinsic"; "imminent" means "likely to happen soon."
<b>innoculate</b>	inoculate	
<b>it's</b>	its	If you can replace "its" with "his" or "her," but can't replace "its" with "it is," it has no apostrophe.
<b>its</b>	it's	If you can replace "its" with "it is," but can't replace "its" with "his" or "hers," it needs an apostrophe.
<b>jewellery</b>	jewelry	The British spelling is "jewellery."
<b>judgement</b>	judgment	"Judgement" is listed in some dictionaries as an alternate spelling, and is the common British spelling.

<b>liason</b>	liaison	
<b>lightening</b>	lightning	"Lightening" means "to lighten." "Lightning" accompanies thunderstorms.
<b>long-time</b>	longtime	No matter how many times you've seen it, no matter for how long, it has no hyphen.
<b>loosing/loose</b>	losing/lose	"Loosing" means "to make loose," and the thing is then "loose." "Losing" means "to lose," and you "lose" the thing you can't find.
<b>maintanance</b>	maintenance	
<b>midieval</b>	medieval	Also misspelled as "midevil."
<b>millenium</b>	millennium	Also misspelled as "millennium."
<b>miniscule</b>	minuscule	"Miniscule" is listed in some dictionaries as an alternate spelling; WNW5 calls that a "disputed" spelling.
<b>non-profit</b>	nonprofit	AP and WNW5 both reject the hyphen.
<b>occurence</b>	occurrence	Also misspelled as "ocurrence" and "ocurance."
<b>pasttime</b>	pastime	
<b>personal</b>	personnel	"Personal" means relating to a specific person; "personnel" is generic for a group of people engaged in a common task or at the same organization; in other words, "staff."
<b>plagiarize</b>	plagiarize	Don't do it, however you spell it.
<b>playwrite</b>	playwright	
<b>poinsetta</b>	poinsettia	
<b>priveledge</b>	privilege	
<b>restauranteur</b>	restaurateur	"Restauranteur" is listed in some dictionaries as an alternate spelling, but not WNW5.
<b>roomate</b>	roommate	
<b>sargeant</b>	sergeant	
<b>seperate</b>	separate	
<b>speciality</b>	specialty	"Speciality" is listed in some dictionaries as an alternate spelling; WNW5 calls it the common British spelling.
<b>supercede</b>	supersede	
<b>tendonitis</b>	tendinitis	"Tendonitis" is listed in some dictionaries as an alternate spelling.
<b>useable</b>	usable	"Useable" is listed in WNW5 and other dictionaries as an alternate spelling, but AP wants "usable."
<b>wholistic</b>	holistic	"Wholistic," acceptable in some dictionaries as an alternate spelling, is used mostly by advocates of specific holistic practices.
<b>worshipped</b>	worshipped	"Worshipped" is acceptable in some dictionaries as an alternate spelling; AP wants the two "p's." Also, "worshipping" instead of "worshipping."
<b>ying and yang</b>	yin and yang	