

## -ize or -ise & -yze or -yse?

The following is taken from the Oxford Dictionary for Scientific Writers and Editors (ISBN 0-19-853920-7).

### **-ize (or -ise)**

In **British English** the -ize form of this suffix is now often the recommended ending for most verbs, with -ise as an accepted variant. It is important to choose a convention and stick to it, i.e. do not use more than one spelling of the same word in the same document. (See also Spelling in General.)

### **Examples**

ionize	photosynthesize
metabolize	polarize
minimize	utilize
organize	

### **Words always spelt -ise**

advise	improvise
advertise	incise merchandise
arise	revise
comprise	supervise
compromise	surmise
devise	surprise
enterprise	televise
excise	

Note that these verbs have the ending -ise in *both* **British and American English**. (*This group of words stems from the Latin, in contrast to the first group which stems from the Greek.*)

The endings -ization or -isation, -izing or -ising follow from the -ize or -ise form.

### **-yse and -yze**

The spelling -yse is preferred to -yze in **British English** as the suffix for verbs derived from *-lysis*.

### **Examples**

analyse  
catalyse  
dialyse  
electrolyse  
hydrolyse  
paralyse

The preferred **American spelling** is -yze.

### **Spellcheckers**

Microsoft seems to think that all British English words are spelt -ise and all American English words -ize. This is not true!