

VERBS ENDING
IN -IZE, -ISE, -YZE
AND -YSE

ACCEPTABLE VARIANTS

The majority of verbs that can be spelled with 'iz' can also take 'is' in British English. In American English, only the 'iz' variant is considered standard. Here are some examples:

Examples of verbs	Acceptable in American English	Acceptable in British English
finalizes	✓	✓
finalises	✗	✓
organized	✓	✓
organised	✗	✓
traumatize	✓	✓
traumatise	✗	✓
normalizing	✓	✓
normalising	✗	✓
bastardize	✓	✓
bastardise	✗	✓
Examples of noun form	Acceptable in American English	Acceptable in British English
realization	✓	✓
realisation	✗	✓
rationalization	✓	✓
rationalisation	✗	✓

'IS' IN BRITISH AND AMERICAN ENGLISH

Some verbs take only the 'is' variant, whichever English you're writing in:

Verb	Gerund	Present/past tense
advertise	advertising	advertises/advertised
advise	advising	advises/advised
apprise	apprising	apprises/apprised
chastise	chastising	chastises/chastised
comprise	comprising	comprises/comprised
compromise	compromising	compromises/compromised
despise	despising	despises/despised
devise	devising	devises/devised
disguise	disguising	disguises/disguised
excise	excising	excises/excised
exercise	exercising	exercises/exercised
improvise	improvising	improvises/improvised
incise	incising	incises/incised
prise (as in open)	prising	prises/prised
promise	promising	promises/promised
revise	revising	revises/revised
supervise	supervising	supervises/supervised
surmise	surmising	surmises/surmised
surprise	surprising	surprises/surprised
televise	televising	televises/televised

'YS' VERSUS 'YZ'

A small group of verbs are spelled with 'yz' in American English but with 'ys' in British English:

Standard in American English	Standard in British English
analyze/analyzing/analyzed	analyse/analysing/analysed
breathalyze/breathalyzing/ breathalyzed	breathalyse/breathalysing/ breathalysed
catalyze/ catalyzing/ catalyzed	catalyse/ catalysing/ catalysed
dialyze/dialyzing/ dialyzed	dialyse/dialysing/ dialysed
electrolyze/electrolyzing/ electrolyzed	electrolyse/electrolysing/ electrolysed
hydrolyze/hydrolyzing/ hydrolyzed	hydrolyse/hydrolysing/ hydrolysed
paralyze/ paralyzing/paralyzed	paralyse/ paralysing/paralysed
psychoanalyze/ psychoanalyzing/psychoanalyzed	psychoanalyse/ psychoanalysing/psychoanalysed

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