

Common spelling mistakes

1 Tick the correct sentence in each pair.

- 1 a We have become very dependant on computers.
b We have become very dependent on computers.
- 2 a You need to have a clear idea of what you want to achieve.
b You need to have a clear idea of what you want to acheive.

Nouns which are commonly misspelt include:

accommodation, benefit, country, environment, government, percentage, proportion

In British English, the noun **programme** has two main meanings:

a training programme = a series of sessions; *a TV programme* = a TV broadcast

But: **a computer program** = computer software

Words containing the *ie* or *ei* vowel combination often cause problems. British children learn a rhyme to help them remember: “**I** before **E** except after **C**.”

achieve/achievement, believe/belief, hygiene/hygienic, retrieve/retrieval

But: *receive/receipt, deceive/deceit, ceiling*

In British English, **practice** is the spelling of the noun and **practise** is the verb form:

*Now they can put into **practice** what they have learnt.*

*It'll be a good opportunity to **practise** speaking English.*

The adjectives **dependent** and **independent** are spelt with **-ent** at the end:

*The degree of influence is **dependent on** a number of factors.*

Dependant is a noun referring to a person who depends on someone else financially:

*The company provides private healthcare for workers and their **dependants**.*

2 Correct the mistake below.



3 Correct any spelling errors in the sentences below.

- 1 I beleive that successful companies need an experienced workforce.
- 2 We need to look at goverment expenditure on enviromental projects.
- 3 Food hygine is a major concern for restaurant owners.
- 4 Many farmers are dependent on foreign investors.
- 5 This money should be spent to benifit the poorest countaries.
- 6 Strong health and educational programmes are vital for developing nations.
- 7 The propotion of women who acheive first class degrees is comparatively low.
- 8 Everyone has the right to practise their religion.