Spelling or Slip?

Sort accepted spellings from misspellings.

8.L.2.c "Spell correctly, recognizing that some words have commonly accepted variations."

NAME _____ DATE _____

ACCEPTED SPELLING

Some words have more than one standard spelling. A spelling used in British English can differ from one used in American English.

colour (British), color (American)

MISSPELLING

A misspelling is not a standard form of a word, even if it looks close to one.

recieve (incorrect for receive)

1 SORT

8 items

For each numbered word, circle ACCEPTED or ERROR, then choose two items and explain how you knew where each belonged.

1. centre — ACCEPTED / ERROR

2. theatre — ACCEPTED / ERROR

3. seperate — ACCEPTED / ERROR

4. grey — ACCEPTED / ERROR

5. occured — ACCEPTED / ERROR

6. untill — ACCEPTED / ERROR

7. travelling — ACCEPTED / ERROR

8. definate — ACCEPTED / ERROR

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new accepted spelling variant and one new misspelling. Beside each, write its other accepted spelling or its correct spelling.

ACCEPTED _____

ERROR _____

CHALLENGE

Choose an ACCEPTED word from Part 1, write its other accepted spelling, and tell which spelling is more common in British English.

ANSWER KEY

Spelling or Slip?

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	centre	**ACCEPTED**	Centre is a standard British spelling of center.
2	theatre	**ACCEPTED**	Theatre is a standard British spelling of theater.
3	seperate	**ERROR**	The correct spelling is separate.
4	grey	**ACCEPTED**	Grey is an accepted spelling of gray.
5	occured	**ERROR**	The correct spelling is occurred.
6	untill	**ERROR**	The correct spelling is until.
7	travelling	**ACCEPTED**	Travelling is a standard British spelling of traveling.
8	definate	**ERROR**	The correct spelling is definite.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **ACCEPTED**: favourite (British), favorite (American)
- **ERROR**: enviroment (misspelling), environment (correct)

Challenge: Theatre and theater are both correct. Theatre is more common in British English.

For Part 2, an explanation should identify an accepted alternate spelling or correct a misspelling. For example, centre is accepted because center is another standard spelling, while seperate is an error because the word is spelled separate.