

Question about the English in Acta Dermato-Venereologica

I am a PhD student in Dermatology and have a question regarding the use of -ise/ize endings in scientific writing in Acta Dermato-Venereologica and in medical journals at large. I have consulted several dictionaries and word-spelling programs in this matter and noticed that they differ in their recommendations for British English. In Acta Dermato-Venereologica you consistently seem to use -ize as the choice of ending. Is there a general rule for the use of -ise/-ize endings in British/American English, or is it possible to use both variants?

*Sofi Forsberg
Department of Medical Sciences
Dermatology and Venereology
Uppsala University
SE-751 85 Uppsala, Sweden*

Answer:

Use of 'ize' / 'ise' endings

Use 'z' spelling for all words ending in 'ize', 'ization' (e.g. organize, prioritize, mobilization), except for the following words, which are always spelt 'ise': advertise, advise, apprise, arise, chastise, circumcise, com-

prise, compromise, demise, despise, devise, disguise, enterprise, excise, exercise, expertise, franchise, improve, incise, merchandise, premise, reprise, revise, supervise, surmise, surprise, televise, treatise.

Derivation

- Words derived from the Greek with the letter *zeta* in their suffix take 'ize' in English.
- Words derived from Greek words with the letter *sigma* in the stem *always* take 'ise' in English, e.g. disguise, chastise, compromise, excise. 'ise' is also used when the verb is the same as a noun in 'ise', e.g. exercise, surprise, disguise.

Use of 'yse' / 'yze' endings

For verbs such as analyse, catalyse, paralyse, British English uses 'lyse', but US English uses 'lyze', e.g. analyze, catalyze.

*Ann Kelsall, BSc, Medical Copyeditor
Oxford, UK*