



Ms. Particular Presents: *Acknowledgments*

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**“Acknowledgment” is the most
commonly misspelled word in US
academia**

Hint: There’s no *e* after the *g**

****If you don’t believe me, and many people do not, just check
the “acknowledgments” page of any book published by a
reputable US publisher.***

Why do so many people misspell *acknowledgment*?

1. Other words ending in *ge* retain the *e* to keep the *g* sound soft when a suffix is added
 - a) management
 - b) arrangement
 - c) knowledgeable
2. The British English spelling retains the *e* (just as the Brits misspell *judgement**), leading to confusion on this side of the pond

*We colonials have our own rules. In US English, the letter *d* preceding the *g* keeps the *g* soft, making the *e* superfluous in the US spelling of *judgment* and *acknowledgment*.

But, but...some US dictionaries give “*acknowledgement*” as an alternative spelling...

1. We have higher standards in physics
2. As the mother of an erstwhile teenage daughter, Ms. P is singularly unmoved by the “somebody-else-is-doing-it” argument

