



FOCUS: Recognizing correct and incorrect answer choices for purpose, method, and opinion questions.

[Continue](#)

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage. Then mark the statements about the passage True or False by clicking on your choice.

[Continue](#)

The Father of American Spelling



DIRECTIONS: Read the passage. Then mark the statements about the passage True or False by clicking on your choice.

[Continue](#)

An influential author of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was Noah Webster. His *American Spelling Book*, first published in 1783, sold more than sixty million copies. From this book, schoolchildren learned that the American tongue was superior to British English because Webster had stripped it of Old World pretensions. Many of the differences in spelling between American English and British English today (*labor*, *theater*, *curb*, and *jail* as opposed to *labour*, *theatre*, *kerb*, and *gaol*) owe to Webster's **tinkering**. Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language*, published in 1828, distinguished American English from British English by including hundreds of words adopted from Indian languages. Although Webster subsequently decided against his spellings of *labour*, *kerb*, *gaol*, and other words after a trip to England, it was too late: his original spellings had already become the American standard.

Webster was brilliant; he taught himself twenty languages. However, he also lacked manners and was unbearably **pious**. In fact, he prepared an edition of the Bible in which he left out words that he felt were "offensive." Additionally, Webster was a **stickler** for uniform spelling and pronunciation; it saddened him that even so great a figure as William Clark, in his journal of the great expedition across the continent, spelled *mosquito* nineteen different ways.

[Back](#)

1 of 5

[Next](#)[Review](#)[Continue](#)

- 1 The author shows Webster's influence by pointing out how many copies of *American Spelling Book* were sold.

☐ True
☐ False

An influential author of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was Noah Webster. His *American Spelling Book*, first published in 1783, sold more than sixty million copies. From this book, schoolchildren learned that the American tongue was superior to British English because Webster had stripped it of Old World pretensions. Many of the differences in spelling between American English and British English today (*labor*, *theater*, *curb*, and *jail* as opposed to *labour*, *theatre*, *kerb*, and *gaol*) owe to Webster's **tinkering**. Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language*, published in 1828, distinguished American English from British English by including hundreds of words adopted from Indian languages. Although Webster subsequently decided against his spellings of *labour*, *kerb*, *gaol*, and other words after a trip to England, it was too late: his original spellings had already become the American standard.

Webster was brilliant; he taught himself twenty languages. However, he also lacked manners and was unbearably **pious**. In fact, he prepared an edition of the Bible in which he left out words that he felt were "offensive." Additionally, Webster was a **stickler** for uniform spelling and pronunciation; it saddened him that even so great a figure as William Clark, in his journal of the great expedition across the continent, spelled *mosquito* nineteen different ways.



Back 1 of 5 Next Review Continue

- 2 In the author's opinion, American English is better than British English.

☐ True
☐ False

An influential author of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was Noah Webster. His *American Spelling Book*, first published in 1783, sold more than sixty million copies. From this book, schoolchildren learned that the American tongue was superior to British English because Webster had stripped it of Old World pretensions. Many of the differences in spelling between American English and British English today (*labor*, *theater*, *curb*, and *jail* as opposed to *labour*, *theatre*, *kerb*, and *gaol*) owe to Webster's **tinkering**. Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language*, published in 1828, distinguished American English from British English by including hundreds of words adopted from Indian languages. Although Webster subsequently decided against his spellings of *labour*, *kerb*, *gaol*, and other words after a trip to England, it was too late: his original spellings had already become the American standard.

Webster was brilliant; he taught himself twenty languages. However, he also lacked manners and was unbearably **pious**. In fact, he prepared an edition of the Bible in which he left out words that he felt were "offensive." Additionally, Webster was a **stickler** for uniform spelling and pronunciation; it saddened him that even so great a figure as William Clark, in his journal of the great expedition across the continent, spelled *mosquito* nineteen different ways.



Back 1 of 5 Next Review Continue

- 3 The author lists American English words and their British English spellings to provide examples of Webster's changes.

☐ True
☐ False

An influential author of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was Noah Webster. His *American Spelling Book*, first published in 1783, sold more than sixty million copies. From this book, schoolchildren learned that the American tongue was superior to British English because Webster had stripped it of Old World pretensions. Many of the differences in spelling between American English and British English today (*labor*, *theater*, *curb*, and *jail* as opposed to *labour*, *theatre*, *kerb*, and *gaol*) owe to Webster's **tinkering**. Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language*, published in 1828, distinguished American English from British English by including hundreds of words adopted from Indian languages. Although Webster subsequently decided against his spellings of *labour*, *kerb*, *gaol*, and other words after a trip to England, it was too late: his original spellings had already become the American standard.

Webster was brilliant; he taught himself twenty languages. However, he also lacked manners and was unbearably **pious**. In fact, he prepared an edition of the Bible in which he left out words that he felt were "offensive." Additionally, Webster was a **stickler** for uniform spelling and pronunciation; it saddened him that even so great a figure as William Clark, in his journal of the great expedition across the continent, spelled *mosquito* nineteen different ways.



Back 1 of 5 Next Review Continue

- 4 The author illustrates Webster's bad manners by citing the example of Webster deleting certain words from his edition of the Bible.

☐ True
☐ False

An influential author of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was Noah Webster. His *American Spelling Book*, first published in 1783, sold more than sixty million copies. From this book, schoolchildren learned that the American tongue was superior to British English because Webster had stripped it of Old World pretensions. Many of the differences in spelling between American English and British English today (*labor*, *theater*, *curb*, and *jail* as opposed to *labour*, *theatre*, *kerb*, and *gaol*) owe to Webster's **tinkering**. Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language*, published in 1828, distinguished American English from British English by including hundreds of words adopted from Indian languages. Although Webster subsequently decided against his spellings of *labour*, *kerb*, *gaol*, and other words after a trip to England, it was too late: his original spellings had already become the American standard.

Webster was brilliant; he taught himself twenty languages. However, he also lacked manners and was unbearably **pious**. In fact, he prepared an edition of the Bible in which he left out words that he felt were "offensive." Additionally, Webster was a **stickler** for uniform spelling and pronunciation; it saddened him that even so great a figure as William Clark, in his journal of the great expedition across the continent, spelled *mosquito* nineteen different ways.



Back 1 of 5 Next Review Continue

- 5 The author mentions William Clark's various spellings of one word to support the point that irregular spelling upset Webster.

☐ True
☐ False

An influential author of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was Noah Webster. His *American Spelling Book*, first published in 1783, sold more than sixty million copies. From this book, schoolchildren learned that the American tongue was superior to British English because Webster had stripped it of Old World pretensions. Many of the differences in spelling between American English and British English today (*labor*, *theater*, *curb*, and *jail* as opposed to *labour*, *theatre*, *kerb*, and *gaol*) owe to Webster's **tinkering**. Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language*, published in 1828, distinguished American English from British English by including hundreds of words adopted from Indian languages. Although Webster subsequently decided against his spellings of *labour*, *kerb*, *gaol*, and other words after a trip to England, it was too late: his original spellings had already become the American standard.

Webster was brilliant; he taught himself twenty languages. However, he also lacked manners and was unbearably **pious**. In fact, he prepared an edition of the Bible in which he left out words that he felt were "offensive." Additionally, Webster was a **stickler** for uniform spelling and pronunciation; it saddened him that even so great a figure as William Clark, in his journal of the great expedition across the continent, spelled *mosquito* nineteen different ways.