***SIMPLIFYING? WHY NOT!?***

Have you ever wondered why Americans use the spellings **color, neighbor, favorite**, while the British use **colour, neighbour, favourite**? Has a computer spellchecker or some kind of cop-editor ever stopped you in words e.g. **travelled (travelled)** or **labour (labor)** or it changed **cheque to check, theatre to theatre,** and **gaol to jail** or others? And now what is correct - this English or that English?

As we can blame for our complicated Slovak language a man whose name is Martin Hattala for etymological orthography (i/í/y/ý), in the case of American English (AmE) we can lay the blame for this **offence (offense)** on Noah Webster, an American linguist (a lexicologist) of the 18th and 19th centuries who wrote and published the first American dictionary. He wanted to reach reforms in written AmE, saying: “Let us then seize the present moment, and establish a national language, as well as a national government.”

During English lessons, and mostly in the 4th grade, you are hearing from many sides what are differences between British English (BrE) and AmE, or you should be aware of those differences… American colonists after separation from the UK were very sensitive about (not only) their language and they wanted to stay separated from them and one of the evidence is seen in their let´s say “different” language. You know, they had started being patriotic from their early beginnigs…

N. Webster reasoned that simplifying spelling would ease learning of young people and allow foreigners to acquire the language more easily, and give American printers a boost in the market place, since every British text would have to be reprinted for American readers. And he also argued that simplified spelling would restore the language to the purity of its Anglo-Saxon past, before the “princes” who came to Britain with the Norman invasion (1066 – French language) imposed foreign rules and, with it, foreign spellings:

**Thus the present orthography of leather, feather, weather, stead, wealth, mould, son, ton, wonder, worship, thirst, etc. The true orthography from the first Saxon writings to the 12th century was lether, fether, wether, sted or stede, welga, mold, suna, tunna, wundor, wurthscipe, thurst.**

That is the reason why you hesitate sometimes (or every time) which spelling is correct or if you cannot make a decision if it is a mistake… But don’t worry, because if you use AmE or BrE, both “Englishes” are correct ☺



