

UK opposition party spells 'Britain' incorrectly

9th October 2025



Everyone makes spelling mistakes, even with "easier" words. Earlier this week, the opposition political party in the UK misspelled a word. The Conservative Party made a mistake with the name of its own country. The error was on the

slogan on the wrapper of a chocolate bar. The word "Britain" was spelt "Britian" on the bar. The message was signed by the party's leader. The Conservatives were holding their annual conference. Each person who attended the event received the bar of chocolate. Organisers of the conference blamed the mistake on a "printing error". After they spotted the mistake, they immediately stopped handing out the chocolate.

Many people on social media made fun of the mistake. Journalist Natasha Clarke wrote on X (formerly Twitter) that the Conservative Party wants to run Britain, but "can't spell it". A member of the UK's ruling Labour Party also commented on the spelling mistake. She said the Conservatives "can't proofread five words on a bar of chocolate". However, it is not the first time that political parties in the UK have had a spelling mishap. Earlier this year, Scottish Labour misspelt the word "Scottish" on its election leaflets. The handout said "Your Scottish Labour candidate," missing a "t". In 2024, the politician Lee Anderson's surname was incorrectly written as "Andersin" on his election leaflets.

Sources: theguardian.com / liverpoolecho.com / metro.co.uk

Writing

Spelling mistakes are OK if we can understand the word. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

spelling mistakes / political party / country / slogan / chocolate bar / conference / social media / make fun of / journalist / spell / proofread / election / leaflet / surname

True / False

- 1) The article says everyone makes even easy spelling mistakes. **T / F**
- 2) The Conservative Party made a spelling mistake with its name. **T / F**
- 3) The spelling mistake was on a bar of chocolate. **T / F**
- 4) The conference organisers blamed the party's leader for the mistake. **T / F**
- 5) No one on social media thought the mistake was funny. **T / F**
- 6) The Labour Party said it wanted to proofread the slogan. **T / F**
- 7) Earlier this year, a party made a mistake with the word 'Scotland'. **T / F**
- 8) In 2024, a politician's surname was misspelt. **T / F**

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. mistakes | a. previously |
| 2. wrapper | b. saw |
| 3. attended | c. be in charge of |
| 4. spotted | d. went to |
| 5. handing | e. flyers |
| 6. formerly | f. errors |
| 7. run | g. check |
| 8. proofread | h. packaging |
| 9. leaflets | i. wrongly |
| 10. incorrectly | j. giving out |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) How good are you at proofreading?
- c) Do you always use a spellchecker when you use a computer?
- d) How is social media changing people's spelling ability?
- e) Is it OK for words to be misspelt if we can understand them?
- f) Which is more important, correct spelling or pronunciation?
- g) How do you feel if people cannot spell your name?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the party leaders?

Phrase Match

1. Everyone makes
 2. the slogan on the wrapper
 3. Each person who attended
 4. blamed the mistake
 5. After they spotted
 6. people on social media
 7. the Conservative Party wants
 8. the Conservatives can't proofread
 9. misspelt the word "Scottish" on
 10. Anderson's surname was incorrectly
- a. made fun of the mistake
 - b. on a printing error
 - c. its election leaflets
 - d. five words
 - e. the event
 - f. to run Britain
 - g. spelling mistakes
 - h. the mistake
 - i. written
 - j. of a chocolate bar

Discussion – Student B

- a) What's your spelling in English like?
- b) Are you good at spelling the words in your own language?
- c) Why is English spelling so difficult?
- d) What English words do you make mistakes with?
- e) Why do you think the word 'Britain' was spelt incorrectly?
- f) What can we do to get better at spelling?
- g) How important is spelling?
- h) Should all words be made easier to spell?

Spelling

1. the opposition taliclpoi party
2. The error was on the oaslng
3. the rpaeprw of a chocolate bar
4. holding their nluaan conference
5. elmbad the mistake on a "printing error"
6. they dietamlmiey stopped
7. Clarke wrote on X (lmyorerf Twitter)
8. the UK's gurnil Labour Party
9. the Conservatives can't rfapeodor five words
10. had a spelling mshiap
11. itepmssl the word "Scottish"
12. Anderson's eumnras was incorrectly written

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. f | 2. h | 3. d | 4. b | 5. j |
| 6. a | 7. c | 8. g | 9. e | 10. i |

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

| | |
|-----|---|
| 1. | Who does the article say makes mistakes, even with easy words? |
| 2. | Where was the mistake written? |
| 3. | How was the word "Britain" misspelt? |
| 4. | What kind of event did the mistake take place at? |
| 5. | What did organisers blame the mistake on? |
| 6. | Who is Natasha Clark? |
| 7. | What did Natasha Clark say the Conservatives wanted to run? |
| 8. | What did the Labour Party say the Conservatives could not do? |
| 9. | What letter was missing on a Scottish Labour election leaflet? |
| 10. | What was incorrectly spelt on the election leaflet of a politician? |

Speaking – Mistakes

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Spelling
- Vocabulary
- Punctuation
- Pronunciation
- Subject-verb agreement
- Plurals
- Missing articles
- Wrong tense

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | T | 2 | F | 3 | T | 4 | F | 5 | F | 6 | F | 7 | F | 8 | T |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.