



# AMERICAN ENGLISH VS BRITISH ENGLISH

Saratov  
2017

# Content

---

- 1. Phonological Differences
- 2. Differences in Vocabulary
- 3. Differences in Grammar
- 4. Differences in Spelling
- 5. How Americans Talk

# Phonological Differences

---

**dynasty, vitamin** — BrE ['dinəsti] AmE ['dainəsti]

**simultaneously** — BrE [.siməl 'teiniəsli] AmE [.saiməl'teiniəsli]

**anti—smoking campaign** — BrE [ænti— ...] AmE [æntai- ...]

**tomato, vase** — BrE [t ə'mɑi:tou, vɑ:z] AmE [t ə'meitou, veiz]

**vacation** — BrE [vɑ'kei jən] AmE [vei'kei jən]

**eat - ate** — BrE [et] AmE [eit]

**dance, pass, chance** — BrE [d ɑ:ns, ðəŋ pɑ:s, tʃɑ:ns] AmE [dæns, pæs, tʃæns]

**either, neither** — BrE ['aiðə, 'ni:ðə] AmE ['i:ðə, 'ni:ðə]

**leisure** — BrE ['le ʒ] AmE [li: ʒ]

**clerk, derby** - BrE [klɑ:k, 'dɑ:bi] AmE [klə:k, də:bi]

**schedule** - BrE ['ʃedʒul] AmE ['skedʒul]

**lieutenant** - BrE [li'f'tenənt] AmE [lu'tenant]

**species** - BrE ['spi:ʃi:z] 'AmE ['spi:si:z]

**often** - BrE ['ɒfən] AmE ['ɒftən]

**aluminium** - BrE [æljʊ'miniəm] AmE [a'lu:minəm]

# Differences in Vocabulary

---

## *American English*

alumnus

apartment

administration

attorney

bar

automobile

drunk driving

cab

call

can

candy

corn

couch

closet

elevator

## *British English*

graduate

flat

government

solicitor / barrister

pub

motor car

drink driving

taxi

ring

tin

sweets

maize

sofa

cupboard

lift

# Differences in Vocabulary

---

- Flashlight                      torch
- Garbage                         rubbish
- Garbage can                    dustbin
- Gas, gasoline                   petrol
- License plate                   number plate
- Mail                                post
- Movie                               film
- Nervy                                impudent
- Pants                                trousers
- Chips                                crisps

# Differences in Vocabulary

---

- Public school                      state school
- Railroad                              railway
- Realtor                                estate manager
- Schedule                              timetable
- Sick                                    ill
- Sneakers                              trainers
- Subway                                underground
- Term paper                            essay
- Truck                                 lorry
- Vacation                              holidays

# Differences in Vocabulary

---

- Public school – государственная школа/ закрытая частная школа
- Enjoin – запретить, воспрепятствовать/ приказать, распорядиться
- To table a proposal – предложить, поставить на обсуждение/ отложить в долгий ящик

# Differences in Vocabulary

---

- Homely
- Upstairs
- Presently
- Bathe vs bath
- Pavement
- Purse
- pants



# Words borrowed from AmE to BrE

---

- Hangover
- Influential
- To bark up on a wrong tree
- Immigrant
- Hot air
- Make up your mind
- Chewing gum
- BLT
- motel

# Differences in Grammar

---

- Present Perfect vs Past Simple
- Different verbs
- One vs He
- prepositions

# Differences in Grammar

---

- |                                      |                         |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ▪ American English                   | British English         |
| ▪ Five after eight                   | five past eight         |
| ▪ Hudson River                       | River Themes            |
| ▪ Real good                          | really good             |
| ▪ A half hour                        | half an hour            |
| ▪ I'll go get the car                | I'll go and get the car |
| ▪ Monday through Friday<br>inclusive | Monday to Friday        |

# Differences in Spelling

---

- -l vs -ll
- -or vs -our
- -er vs -re
- -ize vs -ise
- Tomorrow/ today vs to-morrow/ to-day
- Reflection vs reflexion

# Exercise 1 Decide whether the sentence is written in **British** or **American English**.

---

---

1. English is my favourite subject at school.
2. Have you seen Dick's new truck?
3. The park is in the center of our town.
4. Mr Barnes, our caretaker, found my key.
5. I like French fries, they're very crispy.
6. Have you seen the latest movie?
7. I've passed this test. So I'll get my driving licence very soon.
8. The accident happened because the blue car didn't stop at the traffic lights.
9. Tom told me to get off the Underground at Tower Hill.
10. We have to hand in our résumé by Friday.

- 
- 
1. What about another chocolate biscuit?
  2. We'll have to stop at the next gas station.
  3. I got this book at the new bookstore.
  4. He loves travelling by train.
  5. There has been an accident on the sidewalk.
  6. Put this box into the garbage can, please.
  7. Ronny is in grade eight, not in grade seven.
  8. Let's meet at the weekend.
  9. His billfold is pure leather.
  10. The lift is out of order.

- 
- 
1. Sales tax is not included.
  2. The car had to stop because of a flat tire.
  3. Shouldn't we take the tram?
  4. It was the worst railroad disaster in the history of our country.
  5. His sister attends the primary school in our town.
  6. Cellphones are not allowed in the hospital.
  7. Jim is our new neighbor.
  8. Should we really put the bottles into the boot of the car?
  9. Andy and Tom, would you read the dialog, please?
  10. I think I'll change Mary's nappy.

# Exercise 2 How many differences between British and American English can you find from reading these two short texts?

---

---

- **David (York, England)**

- I live in a flat with my mum, my dad and my two older sisters. My hobbies are playing football and watching films on TV, and my favourite food is burger with chips. There's a good film on TV at the weekend, *Titanic*, but I don't think I'll watch it because I've already seen it.

- **David (New York, United States)**

- I'd say New York is my favorite city in the States, and I have a nice apartment here. However because my job is so busy, the only time I can do stuff like go out to watch a movie, or even just watch a soccer game on TV, is on the weekend. Some days I don't even have time to eat properly – I just get chicken and fries from the place next door. I'd like to move back to Florida to be closer to mom and my brother. I already visited them twice this year, but it's not enough.

- **Mark (Hampshire, England)**

- 'I'm going to rake up the leaves in the garden, then get a DVD for tonight from the shop on the High Street, unless you'd rather go to the cinema. There's no point cleaning the house now because Simon's got his mates coming round to watch the football, and the last time they came they left crisps all over the carpet!'

- **Mark (New Hampshire, United States)**

- 'My buddy Jim must be one of the most accident-prone people in the world. Last year he went to hospital four times – first he broke his toe playing soccer, then he tripped over and broke his wrist when he was walking out of a store on Main Street, then he burnt himself at a barbecue here in our yard, then he somehow got a potato chip stuck in his throat at the movie theatre!'



## Exercise 3

---

---

BRITISH	AMERICAN	BRITISH	AMERICAN
1. biscuit	c _ _ kie	11. torch	flashl _ _ _ _
2. l _ rry	truck	12. p _ yrise	raise
3. puncture	f _ _ t	13. curtains	dr _ pe _
4. rubbish bin	t _ _ _ h can	14. note (money)	_ ill
5. ground floor	f _ _ _ _ floor	15. bill (e.g. in a restaurant)	ch _ _ k
6. c _ retaker	janitor	16. boot (of a car)	tr _ nk
7. t _ n	can	17. cook _ _	stove
8. zip	zipp _ _	18. return (ticket)	r _ _ nd trip
9. windscr _ _ n	windshield	19. single (ticket)	o _ e-w _ y
10. underground (train system)	subw _ _	20. p _ _ tbox	mailbox

# Exercise 4

---

- 1. Did you get a single or a return?
- 2. It's a really busy, noisy road – there are trucks going past all the time.
- 3. She lives on the first floor, so you won't have to go up any stairs.
- 4. Shall I just put this stuff in the trash can?
- 5. I got a puncture when I was cycling to work yesterday.
- 6. My dad works as a janitor at the local school.
- 7. I went to the shop to buy five tins of peaches and some biscuits.
- 8. It's one of the biggest cities in Europe.
- 9. Excuse me, could we have the check please?
- 10. Yes, thank you, the meal was excellent.

- 
- 
- 11. It's dark out there, so take a torch.
  - 12. I'm going to have to clean this windshield – I can hardly see out of it. If you could just bring me some water, I'll use the cloth I've got in the trunk.
  - 13. That bag looks far too heavy for you to carry.
  - 14. I need to get this bag repaired because the zip's broken.
  - 15. It's about twenty minutes on the subway.
  - 16. I'd like a new cooker, but we can't really afford it.
  - 17. I hate my job – my boss is an idiot and I haven't had a raise for four years.
  - 18. Their new carpet's a weird colour and it doesn't match the drapes at all.
  - 19. I'm sure I had a twenty-dollar bill in this pocket, so where is it now?
  - 20. Honey, can you go and put this in the mailbox for me?

- 
- 
- 'Wish McGonagall favoured us,' said Harry. Professor McGonagall was Head of Gryffindor house, but it hadn't stopped her giving them a huge pile of homework the day before.
  - Just then, the post arrived. Harry had got used to this by now, but it had given him a bit of a shock on the first morning, when about a hundred owls had suddenly streamed into the Great Hall during breakfast, circling the tables until they saw their owners and dropping letters and packages on to their laps.
  - Hedwig hadn't brought Harry anything so far. She sometimes flew in to nibble his ear and have a bit of toast before going off to sleep in the owlery with the other school owls. This morning, however, she fluttered down between the marmalade and the sugar bowl and dropped a note on to Harry's plate. Harry tore it open at once.

- 
- 
- Wish McGonagall favored us, " said Harry. Professor McGonagall was head of Gryffindor House, but it hadn't stopped her from giving them a huge pile of homework the day before.
  - Just then, the mail arrived. Harry had gotten used to this by now, but it had given him a bit of a shock on the first morning, when about a hundred owls had suddenly streamed into the Great Hall during breakfast, circling the tables until they saw their owners, and dropping letters and packages onto their laps.
  - Hedwig hadn't brought Harry anything so far. She sometimes flew in to nibble his ear and have a bit of toast before going off to sleep in the owlery with the other school owls. This morning, however, she fluttered down between the marmalade and the sugar bowl and dropped a note onto Harry's plate. Harry tore it open at once.