

Differences between the usage of British and American English





THE PURPOSE

- to consider differences in spelling, pronunciation, grammar and speaking between British and American English.



Two main variants of English:

- British English
- American English



Besides them there are:

- Canadian,
- Australian,
- Indian,
- New Zealand and other variants

DIFFERENCES IN SPEAKING



There are some differences in names of places:

BE – AE; BE – AE:

- Passage – hall; cross-roads – intersection;
- pillar box - mail-box; the cinema - the movies;
- studio - bed-sitter; one-room – apartment;
- pavement – sidewalk; tube – underground, subway;
- surgery - doctor's office; lift – elevator;

DIFFERENCES IN SPEAKING



Some names of useful objects:

BE – AE; BE – AE:

- biro – ballpoint; rubber – eraser;
- parcel – package; carrier bag - shopping bag;
- reel of cotton - spool of thread

DIFFERENCES IN SPEAKING

Some words connected with food:

BE –AE; BE – AE:

- tin – can; sweets – candies;
- chips - french fries;
- minced meat - ground beef.

If we speak about cars there are also some differences:

BE –AE; BE – AE:

- Boot – trunk; bumpers – fenders;
- a car - an auto; to hire a car - to rent a car.

DIFFERENCES OF SPELLING



- the deletion of the letter «**u**» in words ending in «**our**», e.g. **honor, favor**;
- the deletion of the second consonant in words with double consonants, e.g. **traveler, wagon**;
- the replacement of «**re**» by «**er**» in words of French origin, e.g. **theater, center**;
- the deletion of unpronounced endings in words of Romanic origin, e.g. **catalog, program**;
- the replacement of «**ce**» by «**se**» in words of Romanic origin, e.g. **defense, offense**;
- deletion of unpronounced endings in native words, e.g. **tho, thro**.



DIFFERENCES IN PRONUNCIATION

There are some differences in the position of the stress:

BE – AE; BE – AE:

- add`ress – `address, la`boratory - `laboratory;
- re`cess - `recess, re`search - `research;
- in`quiry - `inquiry, ex`cess - `excess.

Some words in BE and AE have different pronunciation:

BE – AE; BE – AE:

- [`fju:tail] – [`fju:tl], [`dousail] - [dosl];
- [`fig] – [figyer]; [shedju:l] – [skedju:l].

CHANGES IN PRONUNCIATION

There are the following changes in pronouncing vowels:

- shortening of long vowels, especially at the end of the word and before voiceless consonants, e.g. **see, keep**;
- lengthening of short vowels before voiced consonants, e.g. **big, good, come, jam** etc.
- In the words consisting of three or more syllables there is a tendency to have two main stresses, e.g. [**`nes `seri**], [**`int `restiŋ**].
- The diphthong [**ou**] is pronounced [**u**], e.g. **home – [hum], go – [gu]**.
- The diphthong [**uə**] is pronounced [**o:**], e.g. **sure [ʃo:]**.

Vowels can also change under the influence of consonants:

- After fricatives and consonants [n] and [m], [**ju:**] is pronounced as [**u:**], e.g. **resume, music, news, enthusiasm**.
- Before fricatives and combinations of fricatives with consonants [**a:**] is pronounced as [**æ**], e.g. **dance, answer, class, fast**.

CHANGES IN PRONUNCIATION

The pronunciation of some consonants is also changed:

- After a vowel [r] is pronounced, e.g. [ka:r], [ha:rt].
- There appears an intrusive [r] in the combinations where after the final vowel [ə] there is a vowel at the beginning of the next word, e.g. **the idea of, Asia and Europe** (on the analogy with word combinations *there is, there are*).
- [s] is used instead of [ʃ] before [i] in the structure of suffixes, e.g. **social** [ˈsoʊsil], **negotiate** [niˈgəʊsi,eɪt];
- Combinations of sounds [dj], [tj], [sj] in such words as **duke, tube, issue** have two variants of pronunciation: [dʒu:k] and [dju:k], [tʃu:b] and [tju:b], [ˈɪʃu:] and [ˈɪsju:];
- Pronunciation approaching spelling is being developed, e.g. **often** [ˈɒftn], **forehead** [fo:ˈhed] etc;
- [t] and [d] at the end of words are not pronounced, e.g. «**half past five**» [ˈha:f ˈpa:s ˈfaɪv], «**old man**» [ˈoʊl ˈmæn].



CONCLUSION

Differences in speaking:

- the usage of prepositions;
- units of vocabulary which are different while denoting the same notions;
- differences in names of places;
- some names of useful objects;
- some words connected with food;
- some words denoting personal items;
- some words denoting people;
- differences when we speak about cars.



CONCLUSION

Differences of spelling:

- the deletion of the letter «**u**» in words ending in «**our**»;
- the deletion of the second consonant in words with double consonants;
- the replacement of «**re**» by «**er**» in words of French origin;
- the deletion of unpronounced endings in words of Romanic origin;
- the replacement of «**ce**» by «**se**» in words of Romanic origin;
- deletion of unpronounced endings in native words.



CONCLUSION

Differences in pronunciation:

- in American English we have r-colored fully articulated vowels;
- the position of the stress;

Changes in pronunciation:

- changes in pronouncing vowels;
- vowels can also change under the influence of consonants;
- pronunciation of some consonants is also changed;

But these differences do not prevent Englishmen and American from communicating with each other easily and cannot serve as a proof that British and American are different languages.