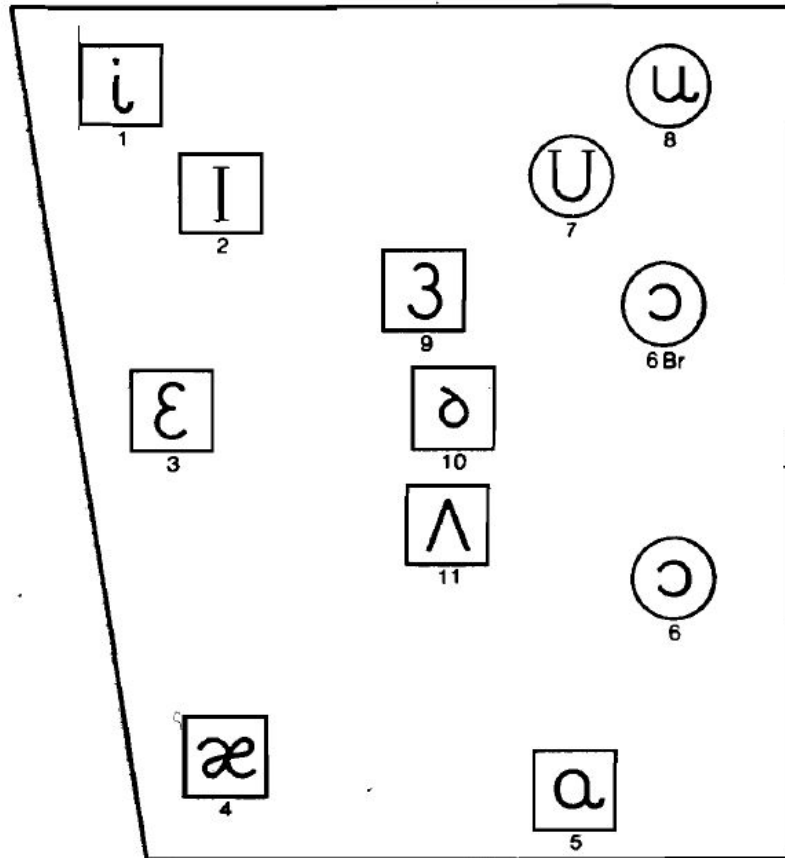




British vs. American
English

- It is very important to note at this point that the discrepancies between BE and AE pertaining to the vocalic system result from different distribution of particular vowels in either variety rather than from qualitative or quantitative differences.



1. **i** — occurs in both BE and AE in words like:
see, bee, lead, speed, bead, read, seed, breed,
bleed, creed;
2. **ɪ** — occurs in both BE and AE in words like:
sit, bit, did, lid, bid, kid;
3. **ɛ** — occurs in both BE and AE in words like:
set, get, ten, red, bed, said, dead;
4. **æ** — there is a long list of words in both BE and AE that employ the vowel **æ**, e. g., *cat, bat, mat, rat, sat, bad.*

However, a large number of words that retain **æ** in AE show the **a** vowel in BE (this difference did not exist until the eighteenth century), e. g.; *plant, grass, dance, cast, command, chance, advance, can't, aunt, path, pass, past, half, fast, last, after, answer, ask, bath, grant, draft, grasp, glance, blast, brass.*

- ¹ 5. **ɑ** — in BE in words like those that have just been quoted, in most types of AE the short variety of **ɑ** occurs in words like:

box, stop, rod, God, pot, not, top, bottom, got, lock, hot, lot, plot, dollar, college, doctor, rock, obvious, body, common, conflict, nod, novel, bother, slot, shot;

it is long in *father*, sometimes in *rather* and before **r**, as in *car* and *garden*. In BE instead of the short **ɑ** the short **ɔ** occurs.

6. **ɔ** — the short variety of **ɔ** occurs in BE in words in which AE usually has a short variety of **ɑ** (see vowel 5)

- ɔ:** — the long variety of **ɔ** — occurs in both BE and AE in words like:

all, saw, bought, taught, talk, law, ball, call, raw, draw, fall, hall, tall, yawn, bawl, lawn, paw, claw, broad, strawberry, coleslaw.

However, the British variety of **ɔ:** is produced with the tongue much more raised (as indicated in the diagram) and the lips more rounded.

7. **ʊ** — occurs in both BE and AE in words like:
book, cook, look, would, should, took, put, hood.

8. **u** — occurs in both BE and AE in words like:
move, groovy, grew, boot, booth, room, lose.

9. ɜ — in AE it is attributed the feature r-colored (the r sound will be discussed later) and occurs in both varieties in words like: *blurr*, *curb*, *bird*, *curve*, *turn*, *learn*, *burn*, *lurk*, *third*.
10. ə — similarly to ɜ in AE in words that have an r in the spelling, ə has an r-coloring. It is always unstressed and occurs initially, medially and finally in words like: *alone*, *ago*, *arose*, *container*, *teacher*, *father*, *mother*, *brother*, *better*.
11. ʌ — occurs in both BE and AE in words like: *but*, *cut*, *erupt*, *destruction*, *come*. In AE in some words instead of this vowel the central vowel ɜ is used e. g., *worry*, *hurry*, *courage*, *current*, *curry*, *flurry*, *surrey*.

1. — AE **æ** versus BE **ɑ**, e. g.: *pass, bath, grass*
2. — AE **ɑ** versus BE **ɔ**, e. g.: *pot, rod, got*
3. — AE **ɔ:** (low) versus BE **ɔ:** (much higher and more rounded), e. g.: *all, saw, law, ball*
4. — AE central vowels **ɜ** and **ɝ** (r-colored) versus BE non-colored **ɜ** and **ə**.

The most frequent diphthongs occurring in both BE and AE are the following:

1. **eɪ** as in *cake, late, mate*
2. **aɪ** as in *might, bite, right*
3. **aʊ** as in *now, out, shout*
4. **ɔɪ** as in *oil, Joyce, boy*
5. **ɪə / ɛ /** as in *here, beer, dear*
6. **ʊə / ʊ /** as in *tour, sure, lure*

The diphthong which occurs in words like: *broke, coke, going, soak*, differs in BE and AE, **əʊ** and **oʊ** being used respectively. Many more examples may be quoted: *poker, rope, dope, thrown, abode, load, no, nose, code, low, wrote, lonely, alone, quote, note, remote, etc.*

In a number of words AE more or less consistently uses the monophthong **ɪ** or **ə** where BE has the diphthong **aɪ**. The following serve as instances: *specialization, generalization, civilization, characterization, crystallization, nasalization, fertile, hostile, futile, agile, fragile, mobile.*

but

	AE	BE
simultaneously	salmténjēsli	sImlténjēsli
acrimony	ækrimouNI	ækrimēNI
albino	ælbáInou	ælbínəu
anti- (<i>prefix</i>)	æntaI-	æntI-
candidate	kændədəIt	kændədIt
brocade	broukéId	brəkéId

Another characteristic American feature is that of using the monophthong **u** instead of the diphthong **ju**. This is true most often after the sounds of **d**, **t**, **n** and **s**, for example: *due, dew, news, duke, suit, duty, suitable, Tuesday, new, knew, student, stupid, nude, numerous, studio, steward*, etc.

It should not be presumed, however, that whenever **ju** occurs in BE, **u** does in AE. It is not at all true. There are many words where in both AE and BE the diphthong **ju** is preserved, e. g.: *few, humor* (British: *humour*), *beauty, cue, music, pure, view, human*, etc.

In words like: *laboratory, hereditary, temporary, extraordinary, explanatory, military* in BE and only very rarely in AE the vowel of the penultimate (next to last) syllable is reduced to ə or most often entirely dropped. Thus the pronunciation of these words will most frequently be BE: [ləbɔːrət(ə)rɪ], [həˈrɛdɪt(ə)rɪ] ... versus AE: [ləɒbrətəri] [həˈrɛdɪtəri], ... The reduction of vowels is closely connected with the problem of stress. Therefore this issue will be raised again when differences in stress are detailed.

Nasal quality seems to be the last very significant feature (pertaining to vowels) to be mentioned here. In the speech of many Americans (especially in the South) nasalization of vowels and diphthongs can be discovered. Thus the vowels in: *man, ham, camp, ramp, any, sing, hang, long, ram, den, Ben, Sam*, get a slightly nasalized quality in AE. This change is most probably due to the neighboring context (a nasal sound) since vowels followed by nasal consonants are usually those which get nasalized.

CONSONANTS

British and American English manifest very few essential differences in the consonantal system.

The stops: **p, t, k, b, d, g**, appear in both BE and AE in words like: *potato, try, lock, bark, ladder, beg* with substantially the same place of articulation and contextually determined degree of voicing.

The exception to these is **t** which in AE may have either the same value as in BE or may be voiced and thus become acoustically almost identical with the intervocalic flapped sound (one tap of the tongue against the alveolar ridge) of BE in such words like: *worry, hurry, very*. The voiced variety of **t** is commonly heard throughout the United States in the following context:

1. when in intervocalic position before an unstressed vowel, as in: *letter, butter, better, bitter, cutters, writing, get it, I got it*
2. when preceding a syllabic **l**, as in: *beetle, subtle, little, kettle, bottle*
3. when between **n** and an unstressed vowel, as in: *twenty, wanted, plenty, winter*. When following a stressed vowel plus **n** and preceding an unstressed vowel the **t** may be lost altogether: *twenty, wanted*
4. when between unaccented vowels, as in: *at another station; if it is easy*. In BE **t** is never voiced.

↖ The **fricative** consonants are nine in number. They are essentially the same in the two varieties.

1. **f** — *factor, after, enough*
2. **v** — *voice, oven, love*
3. **θ** — *thick, anthropological, death*
4. **ð** — *this, other, smooth*
5. **s** — *sad, upside, press*
6. **z** — *zeal, position, boys*
7. **ʃ** — *sure, cushion, brush*
8. **ʒ** — *pleasure, rouge*
9. **h** — *hideous, ahead*

The affricates (combinations of a stop and a fricative) **tʃ** and **dʒ** appear in both BE and AE in: **chuck, crutch and judge and huge**, respectively.

The nasals **n, m, ŋ**, do not show any differences either. They occur in words like: **nationality, notion, pen, mock, coming, ram, going, bring**.

In BE **dark l** occurs:

1. in word final position after vowels as in: *Bill, dull, cool, rule, sell, bell, deal, seal, call*;
2. and after vowels before consonants as in: *help, cold, sold, rolled, bolt, milk, silk, self, shelves, kilt, film, sealed*, etc.
3. In all other cases **l** is clear.

In AE, however, this distinction seems to be gradually disappearing. The **dark** variety of **l**, **ɫ** has been gaining ground in the sound system of AE. Thus in words like: *lamp, luck, look, ladder, leak, leap, lend, lack, lump* BE will have a **clear l** whereas AE a **dark l**. It is chiefly speakers of the South Atlantic region who still preserve the **clear-dark l** distinction.

SEMIVOWELS

The two semivowels **j** and **w** manifest no differences. They appear in words like: *yes, yoke, water, whistle* etc. In both BE and AE **w** and **hw** may be heard in the **wh**-words like: *what, when, where, whatever, why*, etc. It is estimated, however, that BE has **w** more often than AE.

In words like: *father, mother, sir, blurr, dear, rear, sayer, bother, leather, care, lurk, dirt, sort, card, lord, bard, burden, court, lard, George, north*, i. e., either in word final position after vowels or before consonants **r** is pronounced, in the types we are considering, only in AE. However, in BE in words like: *brother, gather, beer* **r** is pronounced when another vowel follows, e. g., *my brother and ...*

In BE the sound which is represented in writing by the letter **r** is essentially of three kinds:

1. a **non-syllabic** vowel (functions as a consonant and has a non-central situation in the syllable) initially as in: *reach, read, root, rack, run*
2. a **fricative** sound after some stops as in: *prize, prank, try, truth*, (voiceless), *dry, drank* (voiced)
3. a **flap** consonant when intervocalic as in: *very, bury, Jerry, Mary, sorry, marry*, or following **θ, ð**, e. g.: *three, with respect, through*. In fact, the flap **r** is gradually disappearing in BE, being replaced by the frictionless retroflexed **r**.

	AE	BE
asthma	<i>æzma</i>	<i>æsmə</i>
advertisement	<i>ædvɜ̄táɪzmənt</i>	<i>ædvótɪsmənt⁷</i>
blouse	<i>blaus</i>	<i>blauz⁸</i>
Berkeley (<i>city</i>)	<i>bɜ̄klɪ</i>	<i>bá:kɪ</i>
borough	<i>bárou</i>	<i>báɾə</i>
clerk	<i>klɜ̄k</i>	<i>kla:k</i>
docile	<i>dəsəl</i>	<i>dəUsaɪl</i>
derby	<i>dɜ̄bɪ</i>	<i>dá:bɪ</i>
either ⁹	<i>íðɜ̄</i>	<i>áíðə</i>
epoch	<i>épək</i>	<i>ípək</i>
leisure	<i>lɪzə</i>	<i>lézə</i>
lieutenant	<i>luténənt</i>	<i>ləfténənt</i>
neither ¹⁰	<i>niðɜ̄</i>	<i>náíðə</i>
process	<i>præsɛs</i>	<i>prəÚsɛs</i>
progress	<i>prægɾɛs¹¹</i>	<i>prəÚgrɛs</i>
suggest	<i>səgdzést</i>	<i>sədzést</i>
shone (<i>past of</i> <i>shine</i>)	<i>ʃoun</i>	<i>ʃɔ:n</i>
schedule	<i>skédjʊl</i>	<i>ʃédjʊl</i>
tomato	<i>təméɪtʊ</i>	<i>təmá:tʊ</i>
vase	<i>veɪs</i>	<i>va:z</i>
z	<i>zi</i>	<i>zɛd</i>

	AE	BE
allegory	<i>ælagórI</i>	<i>ælag(ə)rI</i>
arbitrary	<i>ǣbitrèrI</i>	<i>ǣ:bitr(ə)rI</i>
blackberry	<i>blækbèrI</i>	<i>blækb(ə)rI</i>

customary	<i>kástamèrI</i>	<i>kástam(ə)rI</i>
dictionary	<i>díkʃənèrI</i>	<i>díkʃən(ə)rI</i>
defamatory	<i>dǣfæmátórI</i>	<i>dǣfæmat(ə)rI</i>
dormitory	<i>dóæmátórI</i>	<i>dó:mæt(ə)rI</i>
extraordinary	<i>ekstróððonèrI</i>	<i>ekstró:dən(ə)r</i>
hereditary	<i>hæredætèrI</i>	<i>hæredæt(ə)rI</i>
literary	<i>lítarèrI</i>	<i>lítar(ə)rI</i>
laboratory	<i>læbrátórI</i>	<i>læbó:ræt(ə)rI</i>
military	<i>mílotèrI</i>	<i>mílot(ə)rI</i>
monastery	<i>mánæstèrI</i>	<i>mónast(ə)rI</i>
necessary	<i>nésasèrI</i>	<i>nésas(ə)rI</i>
reactionary	<i>riækʃənèrI</i>	<i>riækʃən(ə)rI</i>
territory	<i>térotórI</i>	<i>térot(ə)rI</i>

The other words which differ in stress in **AE** and **BE** can be divided into two groups:

1. In **AE** the first syllable is stressed more often and in **BE** the second (or third).
2. In **AE** the second syllable is stressed more often and in **BE** the first.

The other words which differ in BE can be divided into two groups

1. In AE the first syllable is stressed in BE the second (or third).
2. In AE the second syllable is stressed and in BE the first.

dictate

dictate

donate

donate

inquiry

inquiry

research

research

Group 2 includes words like:

	AE	BE
	arístocrat	áristocrat
	berét	béret
	café	cáfe
	compléx (<i>adjective</i>)	cómplex
	croché	cróchet
	elóngate	élongate
	frontíer	fróntier
	haráss (<i>verb</i>)	háarrass

the following general statement that ought to be kept in mind: BE employs different intonation modifications with rises and falls within a sentence much more frequent than in AE. American intonation is generally more level, i. e., lacking the mentioned rises and falls. Examples:

AE: It's a beautiful country with many large lakes

BE: It's a beautiful country with many large lakes

AE: Because of the warm and sunny weather oranges grow very well here

BE: Because of the warm and sunny weather oranges grow very well here

AE: My hobby is collecting stamps

BE: My hobby is collecting stamps

As early as 1768 Benjamin Franklin elaborated *A Scheme for a New Alphabet and Reformed Mode of Spelling* which in fact contained all of the traditional alphabetical symbols; only six were new. He proposed using them, however, in quite a different manner. Following B. Franklin, there were other proposals which aimed to simplify the system to the greatest possible extent. The spelling which was advocated at that time, but never taken very seriously, included words like: *ritten* (for written), *waz* (for was), *wil* (for ill), *helth* (for health), etc.

¹ **1. American -or versus British -our**
Examples:

AE	BE
honor	honour
armored	armoured
favor	favour
color	colour
flavor	flavour
labor	labour
behavior	behaviour
savior	saviour
harbor	harbour
humor	humour
neighbor	neighbour
candor	candour
parlor	parlour
odor	odour

a) Many AE verbs ending in **-ize** correspond to BE verbs ending in **-ise**,

Examples:

AE	BE
emphasize	emphasise
organize	organise
analyze	analyse
idealize	idealise
criticize	criticise

b) Similarly, AE nouns ending in **-ization** correspond to BE nouns ending in **-isation**. This spelling difference coincides accidentally with the pronunciation divergence already mentioned. Both **-isation** and **-ization** are pronounced **-ɪzəlɪzən** in AE and **-aɪzəlɪzən** in BE.

Examples:

AE	BE
organization	organisation
characterization	characterisation
secularization	secularisation
generalization	generalisation

3. American **-er** versus British **-re**

Examples:

AE

theater

center

BE

theatre

centre

¹
American single consonant versus British double
consonants before a suffix in unstressed syllables

Examples:

AE	BE
traveled	travelled
traveler	traveller
traveling	travelling
woolen	woollen
councilor	councillor
marvelous	marvellous
rivalled	rivalled
labeled	labelled
focused	focussed
dialed	dialled

I

AE

defense

license

offense

pretense

BE

defence

licence

offence

pretence

AE

tire

siphon

BE

tyre

syphon

AE

anemia
 anesthesia
 diarrhea
 encyklopedia
 medieval
 paleontology

BE

aneamia
 anaesthesia
 diarrhoea
 encyclopaedia
 medi(a)eval
 palaeontology

AE

sulfur
 sulfate
 sulfa

BE

sulphur
 sulphate
 sulph

AE

inquiry
 inclosure

BE

enquiry
 enclosure

AE

gypsy
 gayety

BE

gipsy
 gaiety

AE

ax
aluminum
cozy
curb (*noun*)
check
draft
hello
jail
jewelry
judgment
pajamas
plow
reflection

BE

axe
aluminium¹⁴
cosy
kerb
cheque (*the bank variety*)
draught
hallo, hello
gaol, jail
jewellery
judgement
pyjamas
plough
reflexion, reflection

I absorbent cotton	cotton wool
ad /advertisement/	advert, ad
ailment, sickness, illness	illness
alumni-s/a/, University graduate	/University/ graduate
ale, beer	bitter, beer, ale
amusement park	fun fair
apartment	flat
ash-can, trash can, garbage can	dust-bin
attorney /at law/	solicitor, barrister
baby buggy, baby carriage, buggy	pram
back of, in back of, behind	behind
/to/ back up /car/, reverse	reverse
baggage, luggage	luggage
baggage car	luggage van
bar, tavern, cocktail lounge	public house /pub/
bar keeper	publican, landlord
bartender	barman, barmaid
bathrobe, robe, dressing gown	dressing gown
beet	beetroot

AE

blinders /horse/
 block of houses, row
 of houses
 bonds
 bouncer
 bowling
 boxcar
 broiled
 buddy
 bug
 bulletin board

 bung-starter, key tap-
 per, tap
 bus
 business suit
 cab, taxi
 cab stand, taxi stand,
 taxi rank
 caboose /railroad/
 cable, telegram, wire
 can
 /to/ can
 candy
 canteen
 captain, sergeant,
 police lieutenant
 car /railway pas-
 senger/
 catnip
 cereal
 chain store, chain

BE

blinkers
 block of flats, row of
 houses
 debentures
 chucker out, bouncer
 ninepins, bowling
 goods van
 grilled¹⁷
 chap, mate
 insect, beetle
 notice board, bulletin
 board
 beer-mallet

 coach¹⁸
 lounge suit¹⁹
 taxi
 taxi stand, taxi rank,
 cab rank
 brake van
 telegram, wire
 tin, can
 /to/ tin, /to/ can
 sweets
 waterbottle, canteen
 inspector

 coach, carriage

 catmint, catnip
 porridge, cereal²⁰
 multiple store, chain
 store

1 a) Expressions with corresponding phraseological equivalents in the other variety:

AE	BE	M
1. /to/ be ticked off	/to/ be cheesed off	to be fed up
2. /to/ break into line	/to/ jump the queue	to get into the middle of a line
3. /to/ fall between the cracks	/to/ fall between the stools	to get stuck somewhere
4. /to/ get a pink slip	/to/ get one's cards	to be laid off, dismissed
5. /to get up on the wrong side	/to/ get out of bed the wrong side	to be in a bad mood
6. /the/ gift of gab	/the/ gift of the gab	the ability to chat with anyone
7. /I don't/ give a hoot	/I don't/ care a hoot, ... give a hoot	I don't care at all

) Expressions which are not at all, or very rarely, used in AE:

BE	M
1. all his geese are swans	he exaggerates
2. /to/ ask for one's cards	to ask for permission to leave a job
3. /to/ be a cheeky devil	to be a very impudent person
4. /to/ be mean with money	to be stingy
5. /we/ cannot run to it	we cannot afford it
6. /to/ carry the can	to take responsibilities for others
7. /to/ come to a sticky end	to end up badly
8. /to/ cut one's coat according to one's cloth	to suit one's expenditure to one's income
9. Dutch courage	courage caused by alcohol
10. /to/ get money for jam	to get money for nothing

Expressions which are not, or very rarely, used in BE:

AE	M
1. according to Hoyle	properly, according to the rules
2. /to/ be a grind	to be a hard-working overly serious student
3. /to/ beat one's brains out	to think hard, usually without success
4. /to/ beat the bushes	to search diligently in unlikely places
5. /to/ be in Dutch with someone	to arouse someone's anger or resentment
6. /to/ be from Missouri	to be always skeptical
7. behing the eight-ball	in trouble
8. /to/ chew the fat	to gossip
9. crazy like a fox	not crazy at all, sly
10. /to/ die on the vine	to act or live uselessly, without being noticed
11. /to/ do a land-office business	to have an unusually large number of customers
12. /to/ do <i>sth</i> up brown	to perform an act thoroughly
13. /to/ drop the ball	to make a stupid mistake
14. drug on/in the market	a commodity that is in oversupply
15. /to/ feel like two cents	to feel very bad
16. /to/ feel one's oats	to act with unaccustomed boldness

American & British English Grammar Differences

- Articles
- Verbs
- Tense / Aspect forms
- Adjectives

- Articles
- In hospital - in the hospital
- Verbs never used in American English
- Bath, burgle, treble, pressurise

- Tenses
- Perfective forms

- Adjectives
- Comparison of adjectives

Differences in past/participle forms

- bid/bidder This is a rare variant of bid/bid, not in NODE. < ...the prices are bidder up all the time.> 1987 June 8EveningStandard24/6.
- broadcast/broadcast Broadcast/broadcasted: CIC has no tokens of broadcasted in British texts and 0.6 iptmw in American texts.
- burn/burnt Burn/burned: Of 501 tokens in the American Miami Herald, 95 percent were burned and 5 percent burnt; of 277 tokens in the British Guardian, 56 percent were burned and 44 percent were burnt
- cost/costed Estimate the cost of: CIC has 6.3 iptmw of costed in British texts and 0.2 in American texts. <The Alliance planned to channel £500,000 to the inner city in a carefully costed programme.>
- dream/dreamt dream/dreamed: Of 167 tokens in the American Miami Herald, 95 percent were dreamed and 5 percent dreamt; of 104 tokens in the British Guardian, 69 percent were dreamed and 31 percent were dreamt (Hundt 1998, 24)..
dwell/dwelt
- Dwell/dwelted: CIC has dwelt 14 times more often than dwelled in British texts but only 1.3 times more often in American texts. Past forms are 3 times more frequent in British than in American texts. <Danny's . . . mind dwelt lovingly now on those accumulated spondulicks ["money"].> 1993 Dexter 195. eat/ate/eaten The British preterit is typically /æt/, the American /et/. In American, /æt/ is nonstandard.

- get/got Get/got/gotten or got:
- CIC has 32 times as many tokens of *gotten* in American as in British texts, in which the form is sometimes dialectal and occasionally used interchangeably with got: Haven't you gotten your key?="Don't you have your key?"
- American uses both participles, but often in different senses: *got* typically for static senses like "possess" in I've got it="I have it" and "be required" in I've got to go="I must go"; and *gotten*, typically for dynamic senses like "acquire" in I've gotten it="I have received it" and "be permitted" in I've gotten to go="I have become able to go.

A passive present tense is sometimes used in British to report a generally current situation, for which American would use the present progressive, the present perfect, or a future tense.

<Anthony Caro . . . is made a knight.> 1987 June 18 *Hampstead Advertiser* 12/1–2. <*The Missionaries* is published on May 3.> 1988 Apr. *Illustrated London News* 85/3. <A discount plan . . . is launched today.> 1988 Sept. 15 *Times* 3/7.

British also uses the active present tense with future meaning in contexts where American would favor an overtly marked future form or a progressive.

<We had to miss an invitation. . . . So we make it another time.> 1976 Bradbury 23. <This summer he moves just three miles away.> 1989 Aug. 13 *Sunday Times Magazine* 42/4.

English has two main verb signals of future time: (1) *will* or *shall* (the modal future) and (2) *be going to* (the periphrastic future). In general, British favors *will* or *shall*, and American *be going to*, notably in American conversation and fiction (LGSWE 488). The *be going to* future is more recent and is still expanding in both varieties (Mair 1997). Benedikt Szmrecsanyi (2003) has identified the following differences in corpora of the two national varieties (parenthesized statistics are from CIC for comparison):

1. *Shall* is rare in both varieties, but is more frequent in British than in American (in CIC, 6 times more frequent after personal pronouns).
2. The enclitic *'ll* is more frequent in British than in American (in CIC, nearly 1.4 times more frequent).
3. *Be going to*, on the other hand, is more frequent in American than in British, especially in informal style (in CIC, nearly 2.3 times more frequent).
4. The negative contraction *won't* is more frequent in British than in American (in CIC, on the contrary, it is more than 1.5 times more frequent in American).

- According to a corpus-based study (LGSWE462), British uses the perfect aspect more than does American by a ratio of approximately 4:3. British preference for the perfect is strongest in news media. British normally uses the perfect in the environment of adverbs like *already*, *ever*, *just*, and *yet* (CGEL 4.22n; CamGEL 146n, 713; Swan 1995, 563) and adverbial clauses introduced by the temporal conjunction *since* (CamGEL 697), as well as in contexts where the verb can be considered as referring to either a simple past action (preterit) or one with relevance to the present (perfect):
- I returned the book versus I've returned the book (Swan 1995, 423).
- American has a tendency to use the simple preterit in such cases, although the perfect is also acceptable.

- all the afternoon/morning/evening All afternoon/morning/evening: The forms without the are common-core English. CIC has 5.9 iptmw with the in British texts but none in contemporary American use. <I slept all the afternoon.> 1970 Johnson 18.
- Lands that, at least until recently, sometimes had the definite article in British use, but rarely American, are the following: the Argentine Argentina <1959 Evening Standard 31 Dec. 8/6, I am home from the Argentine.> OEDs.v.thea. 3.b. the Gambia <I hear they have very cheap packages to the Gambia in January.> 1988 Lodge 62. the Lebanon <He has helped . . . to evacuate the Lebanon.> 1987 Oct. Illustrated LondonNews28/2. the Yemen <1981 Church Times 6 Nov. 14/5 The Hoopoo had nested in his walls when he was in the Yemen.> OED s.v.the a. 3.b.

Some examples show that AE uses the infinitive with or without **to** whereas BE only with **to**. For instance, AE: *Let's go see him* versus BE: *Let's go to see him* or *Let's go and see him*. The American variety sounds to Englishmen archaic.

