



**BRITISH AND
AMERICAN
ENGLISH**

These two varieties of English differ in:

- **Spelling**
- **Vocabulary**
- **Grammar**
- **Pronunciation**



SPELLING

| BRITISH ENGLISH | AMERICAN ENGLISH |
|-------------------|------------------|
| OUR | OR |
| <i>colour</i> | <i>color</i> |
| SE | ZE |
| <i>apologise</i> | <i>apologize</i> |
| LL | L |
| travelling | traveling |
| RE | ER |
| <i>theatre</i> | <i>theater</i> |
| OGUE | OGE |
| <i>dialogue</i> | <i>dialoge</i> |

| BRITISH ENGLISH | AMERICAN ENGLISH |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| AE | E |
| <i>encyclopaedia</i> | <i>encyclopedia</i> |
| QUE | CK / -K |
| <i>Cheque/ banque</i> | <i>Check/ bank</i> |
| DGE | DG |
| <i>judgement</i> | <i>judgment</i> |
| ENCE | ENSE |
| <i>defence</i> | <i>defense</i> |
| XION | CTION |
| <i>reflexion</i> | <i>reflection</i> |

BRITISH ENGLISH

AMERICAN ENGLISH

GG

G

faggot

fagot

ST

NO st

amongst

among

VOCABULARY

BrE

angry
mad (about)
bill
road surface
pavement
autumn
bed-sitter
break (time)
caravan
car park
chemist's

AmE

mad
crazy (about)
check
pavement
Sidewalk
fall
studio
recess
camper / trailer
parking lot
drugstore

BrE

motorway
nought
petrol
police(men)
pub
queue
roundabout
rubbish
shop
sweets
tap
taxi
the cinema

AmE

expressway/ freeway
zero
gasoline / gas
cop(s)
bar
line
traffic circle/ rotary
garbage/ trash
store
candies
faucet
cab
the movies

BrE

tin

tube/underground

zebra crossing / pedestrian crossing

zed

AmE

can

subway

crosswalk

zee

Grammar

In formal, written English there are very few grammatical differences between British and American English. But in informal, spoken English there are a number of differences. The following are the most important.

- **Collective nouns** like *family* and *team* are generally singular in American English, but normally plural in British English.
- In American English the verb *have* is used more often than the verb *have got*. In British English *have got* is more common.

- 
- In **American English** the **past simple** is often used for an action that has just happened. It is also used with *just, already, yet, ever, never*. In **British English** the **present perfect** is used.
 - **Question tags** are **less common in American English** than in British English.
 - ***Should*** in **American English** is used in offers and suggestions where ***shall*** is used in **British English**.

The use of some prepositions differs too

| AMERICAN ENGLISH | BRITISH ENGLISH |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| On the weekends. | At the weekends. |
| On the team. | In the team. |
| It starts Tuesday. | It starts on Tuesday. |
| She looked out the window. | She looked out of the window. |
| It is ten minutes after five. | It's ten past five. |
| He protested the pollution. | He protested against the pollution. |
| He is in back of the door. | He is behind the door. |
| Will you write her? | Will you write to her? |
| I saw him around the corner. | I saw him round the corner. |