

DIFFERENCES IN BRITISH AND AMERICAN ENGLISH



*“England and America are two countries divided by a
common language.”*

~George Bernard Shaw

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

I put on a jumper and raced to catch a lift.

Once outside, I discovered it was dark and I was feeling mad. "I should have brought a torch," I thought. At the underground I bought a return ticket. "How am I going to get a rise from my boss?" I wondered.

WORD CONFUSIONS WITH ONE MEANING

American	British
Gas	Petrol
Truck	Lorry
Bathroom	Loo
Line	Queue
Stove	Hob
Napkins	Serviettes
Eggplant	Aubergine
Zucchini	Courgette

TRANSLATE THIS SENTENCE!

British English:

"I was waiting in **queue** for the **loo** before getting some **petrol** for my **lorry** when I realized I left the **hob** on and the **aubergines** were probably burning!"

American English:

"I was waiting in **line** for the **bathroom** before getting some **gas** for my **truck** when I realized I left the **stove** on and the **eggplant** was probably burning!"

WORD CONFUSION WITH MULTIPLE MEANINGS

- ❑ Appetizer/Entree
- ❑ Bank Teller/Cashier
- ❑ French fries/Chips
- ❑ Cigarette/Fag
- ❑ Dessert/Pudding
- ❑ Eraser/Rubber
- ❑ Soccer/Football
- ❑ Sweater/Jumper
- ❑ Suspenders/Braces
- ❑ Underwear/Pants
- ❑ Flashlight/Torch
- ❑ A Flirt/Tart
- ❑ Hood (car)/Bonnet
- ❑ Jello/Jelly
- ❑ Jelly/Jam
- ❑ Pants/Trousers
- ❑ Private school/Public school
- ❑ Public School/State school
- ❑ Undershirt/Vest

POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING SITUATIONS:

“RUBBER”

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Eraser

Condom

“Excuse me, do you have a rubber?”



POTENTIALLY EMBARRASSING SITUATIONS”

“PANTS”

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no, it's NOT ONE OF THOSE
TRENDY SLANTED SKIRTS...
SHE'S JUST TUCKED 'IT' INTO
HER PANTS

underwear

trousers

“ My other jeans ripped, so I’ve been wearing these pants for the past three days!”



POTENTIALLY CONFUSING SITUATIONS

*If a British person

Asks you about football...

...they mean soccer

Asks you bring *pudding*...

...they mean dessert

Puts on a *jumper*...

...they mean a sweater

Wears *braces*....

...wears suspenders

Wears *suspenders*...

...wears garters



Charles was sure Chuck has said
pants and suspenders

OTHER CONFUSING SITUATIONS...

- ❑ Ask for *chips* in England, and you'll get French Fries, not potato "crisps"
- ❑ Tell a British friend to pick up some *jelly* at the store, and they'll bring home gelatin (Jell-o) not jam



A NOTE ON SCHOOLING

In the US, a public school is government funded

In the US, a private school requires tuition

In England, a public school requires tuition

In England, a state school is government funded

IS THERE REALLY A LANGUAGE BARRIER?

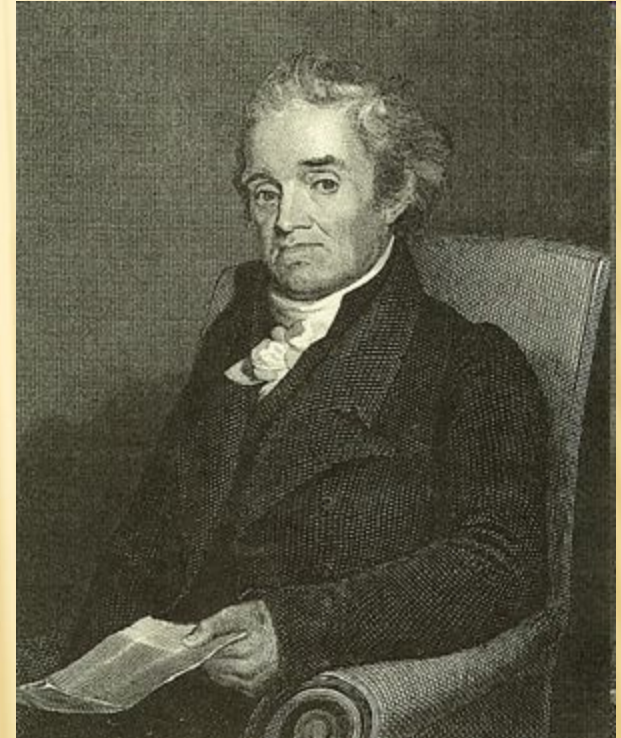
In his history of the Second World War, Winston Churchill records that differences in the interpretation of the verb "to table" caused an argument between British and American planners. The British wanted a matter tabled immediately because it was important, and the Americans insisted it should not be tabled at all because it was important. In British English, the term means "to discuss now" (the issue is brought to the table), whereas in American English it means "to defer" (the issue is left on the table).

HOW DID THIS DIVERGENCE OCCUR?

- The Atlantic ocean served as a major divide, allowing the two dialects to develop
- American English picked up words from Native American languages as well as from Dutch, Spanish, and French settlers
- Noah Webster decided to solidify and standardize American English in his dictionary

NOAH WEBSTER

- ❑ Writer of the first American dictionary in 1806
- ❑ Believed that Americans' language should reflect the way they spoke, and be distinct from British English
- ❑ Came of age during the American revolution, and therefore placed great emphasis on America's cultural separation from England
- ❑ Simplified spellings of many words, such as *plough* → *plow*
centre → *center* *colour* → *color*
- ❑ Added uniquely American words, such as *squash* and *chowder*



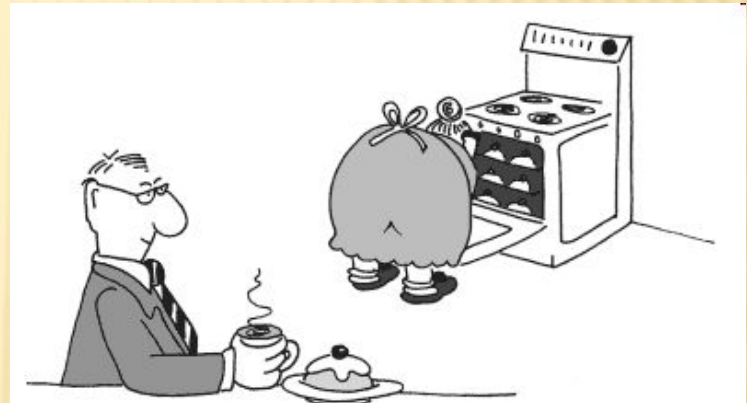
THE LANGUAGES DIVERGE...AND CONVERGE

- The differences in the languages reached its peak right after the industrial revolution
- With the spread of modern technology, more terms are becoming common

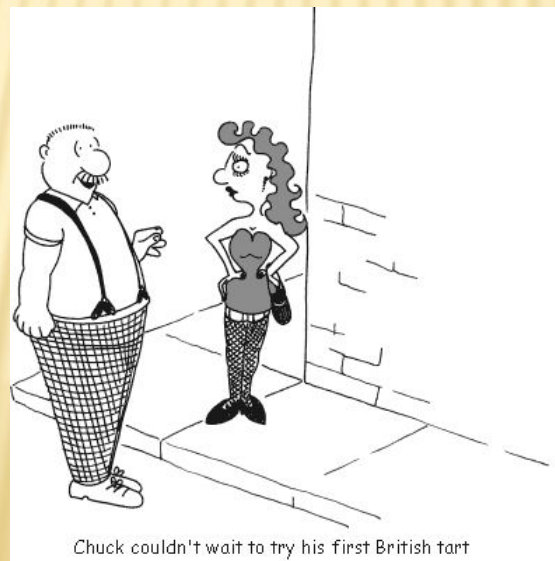
JUST FOR FUN!



Charles casually asks if he can bum a fag



Charles couldn't take his eyes off Grandma's buns



Chuck couldn't wait to try his first British tart

**THANK YOU FOR
ATTENTION**

THE END