

b. Note the main differences in spelling:

British English	American English
<b>--our</b>	<b>--or</b>
Colour	Color
Honour	Honor
Vigour	Vigor
<b>--re</b>	<b>--er</b>
Theatre	Theater
Metre	Meter
Centre	Center
<b>--ll</b>	<b>--l</b>
Councillor	Councilor
Chilli	Chili
<b>--l</b>	<b>--ll</b>
Skilful	Skilfull
Fulfill	Fulfill
Instill	Instill
<b>--c</b>	<b>--s</b>
Licence	License
Offence	Offense
Defence	Defense
<b>--gue</b>	<b>--g</b>
Analogue	Analog
Catalogue	Catalog



-mm  
Programme

-s  
Analyse  
Paralyse

-m  
Program

-z  
Analyze  
Paralyze

- c. Sometimes there is a total variation in the word itself. Examples of such words are:

### BRITISH ENGLISH

Autumn  
Amber  
Biscuit  
CV  
Cooker  
Dustbin  
Engine driver  
Flat  
Essay  
Full stop  
Hand bag  
Ground floor  
From Monday to Friday  
Lorry  
Notice board  
Number plate  
Time-table  
Term  
Torch  
Value  
Wagon  
Waist coat

### AMERICAN ENGLISH

Fall  
Yellow  
Cookie  
Resume  
Stove  
Garbage can  
Engineer  
Apartment  
Paper  
Period  
Purse  
First floor  
Monday through Friday  
Truck  
Bulletin board  
License plate  
Schedule  
Semester  
Flash light  
Appraise  
Freight car  
Vest



Flask	Thermos
Frost	Ice
Grill	Broil
Cutting	Clipping
About-turn	About-face
Anti-clockwise	Counter-clockwise
Aerial	Antenna
Fire engine	Fire truck

Apart from the lexical differences, there are also grammatical and phonological differences between the British and American English. We will have a look at some of them below.

#### **d. Differences in Grammar**

##### **(i) Verb Agreement with Collective Nouns**

In British English collective nouns, (i.e. nouns referring to particular groups of people or things), (e.g. staff, government, class, team) can be followed by a singular or plural verb depending on whether the group is thought of as one unit, or as many individuals.

##### **For example:**

My team is winning.

The other team are all sitting down.

In American English, collective nouns are always followed by a singular verb, so an

American would usually say:

Which team is losing?



(ii) Use of verbs such as 'have' and 'take'

In British English

I'd like to have a bath.

She's having a little nap.

I'll just have a quick shower before we go out.

In American English, the verb 'takes', rather than 'have', is used in these contexts. For example:

Joe's taking a shower.

I'd like to take a bath.

Let's take a short vacation.

Why don't you take a rest now?

(iii) American and British English may also use a base verb in different manners.

For example: For the verb 'to dream', Americans would use the past tense **dreamed** while the British would use **dreamt** in past tense.

The same applies to 'learned' and 'learnt'.

(iv) Another example of differing past tense spellings for verbs in American and British English is 'forecast'. Americans use 'forecast' while the British would say 'forecasted' in simple past tense.

(v) Use of Auxiliaries and Modals

In British English, the auxiliary **do** is often used as a substitute for a verb when replying to a question.

**For example:**

Are you coming with us?

BE: I might do.

In American English, **do** is not used in place of verbs. For example:



Are you coming with us?

AE: I might.

In British English **needn't** is often used instead of **don't need to**. For example:

BE: They needn't come to school today.

AE: They don't need to come to school today.

In British English, **shall** is sometimes used as an alternative to **will** to talk about the Future.

**For example:**

I shall / will be there later.

In American English, 'shall' is unusual and 'will' is normally used.

In British English **shall I / we** is often used to ask for advice or an opinion.

**For example:**

Shall we ask him to come with us?

### **e. Use of Prepositions**

There are also a few differences in the use of prepositions.

- |                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. on the weekend (AE)       | at the weekend (BE)          |
| 2. on a team (AE)            | in a team (BE)               |
| 3. Please write me soon (AE) | Please write to me soon (BE) |

Note that **have got** is possible in American English, but is used with the meaning **have**, **gotten** is the usual past participle of **get**.

**For example:**

You've gotten taller this year (AE)

You've got taller this year (BE)

### **f. Difference in Pronunciation**

vase (BE) - vase (AE)

matter - madder