

Varieties of English

A) British vs American English: How many words can you remember? Complete the table.

<i>British English</i>	<i>American English</i>
aubergine	eggplant
chips	French fries
crisps	potato chips
biscuits	cookie
sweets	candy
car park	parking lot
lorry	truck
motorway	freeway/highway
petrol	gas
economy	coach class
underground (tube)	subway
pavement	sidewalk
postbox	mailbox

<i>British English</i>	<i>American English</i>
queue	line
pub	bar
chemist	drugstore/pharmacy
flat	apartment
ground floor	first floor
lift	elevator
toilet	restroom
trainers	sneakers
trousers	pants
torch	flashlight
holiday(s)	vacation
autumn	fall
zed	z pronounced 'zee'

B) What are

Taumatawhakatangihangakoauauotamateaturipukakapikimaung
ahoronukupokaiwhenuakitanatahu

and

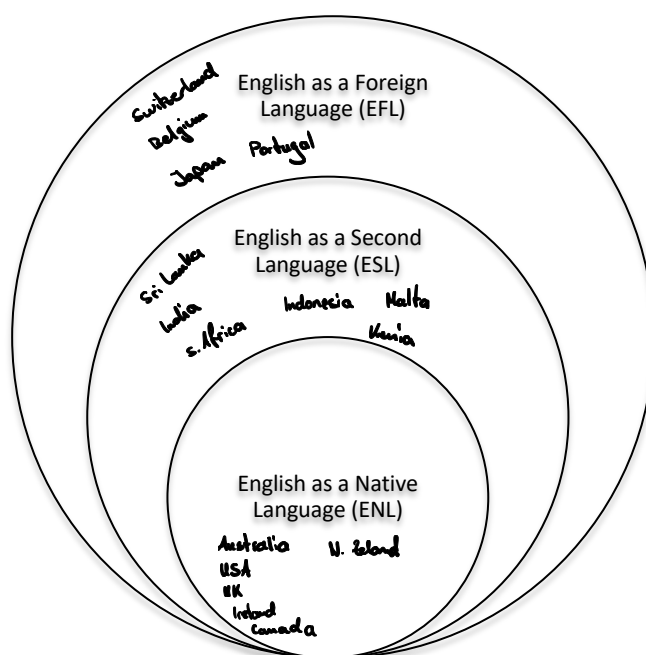
Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch

(if it's not a cat running across your keyboard)?

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C) Look at a map of the world and

- identify five different countries where English is spoken as a native (= first) language. Write their names next to the smallest circle.
- identify five countries where English is typically spoken as a second language, i.e. as an official language to facilitate communication and write them next to the circle in the middle.
- Add five countries where English is commonly taught as a foreign language. Write them next to the outer circle.
- Share your results with a partner and discuss:
 - Why do you think English is spoken in so many countries?
 - What are the differences between the countries in the three circles?
 - What are the consequences of the fact that English has become a global language – also for your personal life?



D) Rank the following countries in terms of numbers of speakers of English:

The UK, New Zealand, the Philippines, the USA, Ireland, India, Australia, Pakistan, South Africa, Nigeria, Canada

	Country	No. of English speakers	Total population
1.	USA	291,000,000 (= 92% of population)	328,000,000
2.	India	125,000,000 (= 11% of population)	1,300,000,000
3.	Pakistan	89,000,000 (= 49% of population)	212,000,000
4.	Philippines	79,000,000 (= 64% of population)	107,000,000
5.	UK	59,000,000 (= 98% of population)	66,000,000
6.	Nigeria	44,000,000 (= 53% of population)	196,000,000
7.	Canada	25,250,000 (= 86% of population)	38,000,000
8.	Australia	24,200,000 (= 97% of population)	25,000,000
9.	South Africa	16,000,000 (= 31% of population)	58,000,000
10.	Ireland	4,450,000 (= 99% of population)	5,000,000
11.	New Zealand	3,670,000 (= 96% of population)	5,000,000

English Dialects

- A) Your own use of English: Compare your way of pronunciation with your partner(s). Do you pronounce the words in the same way or are there any differences?
- chance, schedule, far, matter, issue, tomato, A to Z
- B) In British English, many words are often pronounced with /ɑ:/ whereas American speakers prefer to pronounce those words with /æ/.
Pronounce the following words first in a very "British" way (= Received Pronunciation) and then in an "American" way.
- after, answer, ask, aunt, banana, basketball, dance, disaster, example, glass, half, last, laugh, pass, staff, task
- C) In most parts of Britain, the /r/ is not pronounced after vowels; in American English /r/ is usually always pronounced in all positions.
Try to read the following words with a "British" accent and then with an "American" accent.
- arm, farm, for, Harry Potter, after, girl, bird, fear, Peter, motor, father, charm
- D) Take turn in reading the poem below in "your" accent.

English is Though Stuff (by Anonymous)

I take it you already know
Of tough and bough and cough and dough?
Others may stumble but not you
On hiccough, thorough, slough and through.
Well done! And now you wish perhaps,
To learn of less familiar traps?

Beware of heard, a dreadful word
That looks like beard and sounds like bird.
And dead, is said like bed, not bead -
for goodness' sake don't call it 'deed'!
Watch out for meat and great and threat
(they rhyme with suite and straight and debt).

A moth is not a moth in mother,
Nor both in bother, or broth in brother,
And here is not a match for there,
Nor dear and fear for bear and pear,
And then there's doze and rose and lose -
Just look them up - and goose and choose,
And cork and work and card and ward
And font and front and word and sword,
And do and go and thwart and cart -
Come, I've hardly made a start!

A dreadful language? Man alive!
I learned to speak it when I was five!
And yet to write it, the more I sigh,
I'll not learn how 'til the day I die.