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**The differences between American and British English**

* American English is the form of English used in the United States. It includes all English dialects used within the United States of America.
* British English is the form of English used in the United Kingdom. It includes all English dialects used within the United Kingdom.
* Differences between American and British English include accent, pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary (lexis), and spelling.

**Difference in Accent**

It’s difficult to make clear distinctions between US and UK accents when there is such a wide variety of accents within both the US and UK.

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| **American english** | **BRITISH english** |
| A Texan and a New Yorker are both Americans but have very different accents. | The same goes for British accents in London, Manchester and Glasgow. |

**Difference in Pronunciation**

The word might be spelt the same, it is possible that people from the British and America pronounce it differently. For Example: the word ‘tomato’ is pronounced ‘tom-ah-to’ in the British but ‘tom-ay-to’ in the America and the word ‘mobile’ is pronounced ‘mow-bile’ in the British but ‘mow-bl’ in the America.

**Difference in Grammar**

There are many grammatical differences between American and British English.

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| **Difference in Use of Tenses** | |
| **American english** | **BRITISH english** |
| Jenny feels ill. She ate too much. | Jenny feels ill. She's eaten too much. |
| I can't find my keys. Did you see them anywhere? | I can't find my keys. Have you seen them anywhere? |
| **Difference in Verb with Collective Noun** | |
| **American english** | **BRITISH english** |
| Collective nouns are always followed by a singular verb, so an American would usually say: Which team is losing? | Both plural and singular forms of the verb are possible, as in British: Which team is/are losing? |

**Difference in Vocabulary**

There are many differences between British English and American English. However, the

most complicated for English language learners is probably the differences in vocabulary, including idioms and phrasal verbs. Below you will see a few of the main vocabulary differences.

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| **American english** | **BRITISH english** | **American english** | **BRITISH english** |
| Apartment | Flat | Fall | Autumn |
| Vacation | Holiday | Yard | Garden |
| Movie | Cinema | Elevator | Lift |
| Sweater | Jumper | Sidewalk | Pavement |
| Cookie | Biscuit | Line | Queue |
| Soccer | Football | Subway | Underground |
| Mailbox | Post box | Candy | Sweets |

**Difference in Spelling**

There are a few major spelling differences between British and American English. This is because British English has generally kept the spelling of words that it has taken from other languages, but American English has changed the spelling to look more like how the word actually sounds when you say it.

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| **American english** | **BRITISH english** |
| Color | Colour |
| Center | Centre |
| License | Licence |
| Program | Programme |
| Meter | Metre |
| Organize | Organise |
| Traveling | Travelling |