

**LEVEL**  
**Intermediate**

**NUMBER  
EN BE 3915G**

**LANGUAGE**  
English

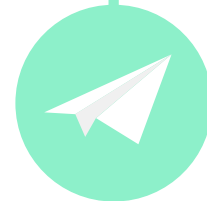




## Goals

- Can recognise and explain the differences between British and American English vocabulary.
- Can identify and compare the use of British and American English in a short text.





The most noticeable difference  
between **British** and **American**  
**English** is **vocabulary**.

There are hundreds of everyday words  
that are spelt or pronounced  
differently.

Do you know any?



## Preview

- In this lesson, you will learn the differences between **British** and **American English vocabulary**.



I invited a couple of my **mates** over to my **flat**, which is perfectly located in the middle of the city **centre**, to watch a **football** match.



## Warm-up

**Can you tell the difference between British and American English? Tell your teacher what makes each sentence British or American English.**

1. Summer is almost over and autumn is around the corner!
2. Where is the closest store? I need to buy some bread.
3. Would you like some biscuits with your tea?
4. You should stop eating those potato chips. They are not good for you.
5. He orders a big portion of chips every time he gets a burger.
6. Come to the fifth floor, but remember that there is no elevator in this building.
7. I live in a modern city where the public transportation system, especially the subway, is convenient.



## BrE vs AmE

Even though there are many differences between British and American English, most native speakers can usually guess the meaning through the **context** of a sentence.



In Britain, we go on **holiday** and live in **flats**.



In America, we go on **vacation** and live in **apartments**.



## BrE and AmE at work

- If you're not sure which sort of English to use at work, ask yourself:
  - **What country is my company or office based in?** If it is an English-speaking country, this will probably be a big factor in your decision.
  - **What is company policy?** Find out if there are any guidelines.
  - **What is the situation?** There's a difference between writing a marketing text and chatting casually with a colleague.

### speaking

- If you are working in an English-speaking country, it can be a good idea to try to use the vocab of the country you are in, but you'll normally be understood even if you don't.
- If you are working in a very international office with lots of non-native speakers, you will probably hear a mix of British and American English vocabulary.

### writing

- Writing conventions are usually much stricter.
- Most companies have a policy about which type of English they use. This includes vocabulary as well as spelling!
- For consistency, it's important that you stick to your company's policy.



## BrE vs AmE: Vocabulary

- Here are some words that have the same meanings but are used either in **British** or **American English**.

| BrE                    | AmE                 |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| film                   | movie               |
| to go to the cinema    | to go to the movies |
| the underground / tube | the subway          |
| to queue               | to line up          |
| jumper                 | sweater             |
| timetable              | schedule            |
| mobile phone           | cell phone          |
| rubbish                | garbage             |
| bin                    | trash can           |





## Why different?



Why do you think such differences exist in English?

Which version of English do you prefer to use? Why?



## Matching activity

1. chemist

2. rubber

3. car park

4. town/city centre

5. shop assistant

6. shopping trolley

7. trousers

8. courgette

9. toilet

10. aubergine



**Match the British words above with the following American words:**  
*shopping cart, drug store, pants, sales clerk, zucchini, eraser, eggplant, downtown, parking lot, restroom*



## Write your own sentences

**Pick one of the options below and write a sentence that includes both of the British English words given.  
Try to be as creative as possible!**

1. autumn / holiday

2. chips / film

3. timetable / shop assistant

4. town centre / car park

5. mobile phone / jumper



## What is it called in British English?

1. check



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2. candy



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3. cotton candy



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4. faucet



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5. janitor



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6. ladybug



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7. phone booth



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8. diaper



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## BrE vs AmE: more vocabulary

- These are some more different **British** and **American English** words.
- Have you heard of these before? Can you use each of them in a sentence?

| BrE       | → | AmE        |
|-----------|---|------------|
| reception | → | front desk |
| full stop | → | period     |
| stock     | → | inventory  |
| aerial    | → | antenna    |
| cutlery   | → | silverware |



## Pronunciation

**Try pronouncing the words below.**

**Do you have British or American English pronunciation?  
Can you tell from your teacher's accent where they are from?**

1. vitamin

2. tomato

3. advertisement

4. schedule

5. mobile

6. route

7. dynasty

8. amen



**Practise the pronunciation with your teacher!**  
**Who has the best British or American accent?**

| Words            | BrE             | AmE              |
|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. vitamin       | VI-ta-min       | VAI-ta-min       |
| 2. tomato        | tuh-MAH-toe     | tuh-MAY-toe      |
| 3. advertisement | ad-VER-tis-ment | ad-ver-TIES-ment |
| 4. schedule      | SHED-jool       | SKED-jool        |
| 5. mobile        | MOH-bile        | MOH-buhl         |
| 6. route         | ROOT            | ROUT             |
| 7. dynasty       | DI-na-sty       | DIE-na-sty       |
| 8. amen          | Ah-MEN          | Ay-MEN           |





## BrE vs AmE: the letter A

In some words, the letter A is pronounced differently in British and American English.

Try both ways of pronouncing these words with your teacher.  
Then try to use at least 3 of the words in one sentence.

After my **bath**, I had to **laugh** because I realised I had missed my Lingoda **class**. I was too busy singing!

bath

laugh

class

chance

can't

example

after





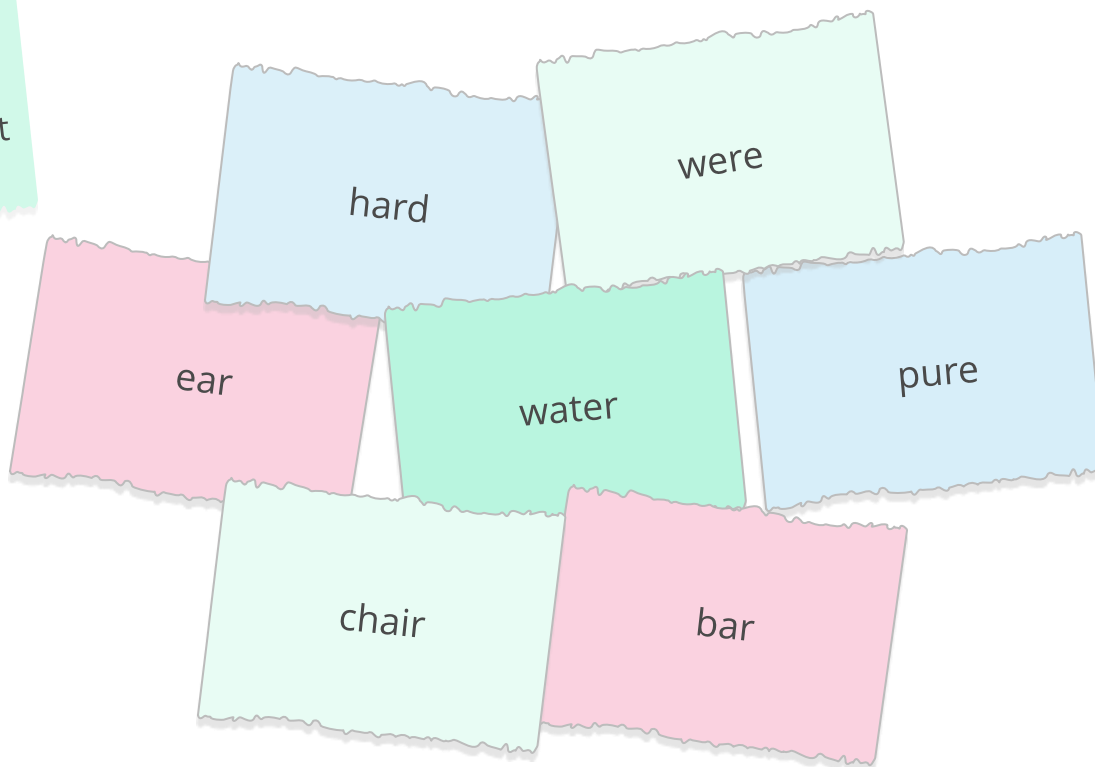
## BrE vs AmE: the letter *R*

The sound of *R* is stronger in American English than British English.

Try both ways of pronouncing these words with your teacher.

As with the previous slide, try to be as creative as possible in creating some sentences using the words.

My dream is to live by the sea. I love the sound of the **water**. After a **hard** day at work, I could relax at a seafront **bar**.





## BrE vs AmE: intonation

The intonation of British and American English is quite different. The British tend to use high falling intonation, hitting the main stress high and dropping down. In American English, rising tones are more common, so you go up from the main stress. This use of rising intonation of statement is referred to as *upspeak*.

Try saying the phrases below in both British and American English.

“

I don't know what to do about it.

”

“

Can I please have a glass of water?

”





## Describe the pictures

**Describe each picture twice: once from a British person's perspective and the second time from an American person's perspective.**

**Pay close attention to your pronunciation.**



**match vs game**



**cloakroom vs checkroom**



**trainers vs sneakers**



**cooker vs stove**



## BrE vs AmE


|   | BRITISH<br>ENGLISH       | AMERICAN<br>ENGLISH      |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. I can't put any more jumpers in my wardrobe.           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Remove all the water stains on our silverware.         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. The office where I work is located in the city centre. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Do you want to go to the movies after work?            | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. My cell phone isn't working at the moment.             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The car park is packed!                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



**You will have two rounds of 30 seconds to write as many different BrE and AmE words as you can.**

**Afterwards, compare your answers and practise your British and American pronunciation.**

# BrE vs AmE





## BrE vs AmE

In my opinion...

Despite the old saying *America and Britain are two nations divided by a common language*, a British person once said to an American, *You don't speak English. You speak American.*

Do you think it's unfair that American English is also called English?  
What is your opinion on this topic?



## Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

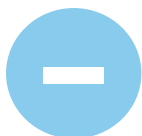
no




## Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.  
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over  
the most difficult slides again







## Answer key

### Exercise p. 5

1. BrE (autumn), 2. AmE (store), 3. BrE (biscuits), 4. AmE (potato chips), 5. BrE (chips), 6. AmE (elevator), 7. AmE (subway)

### Exercise p. 10

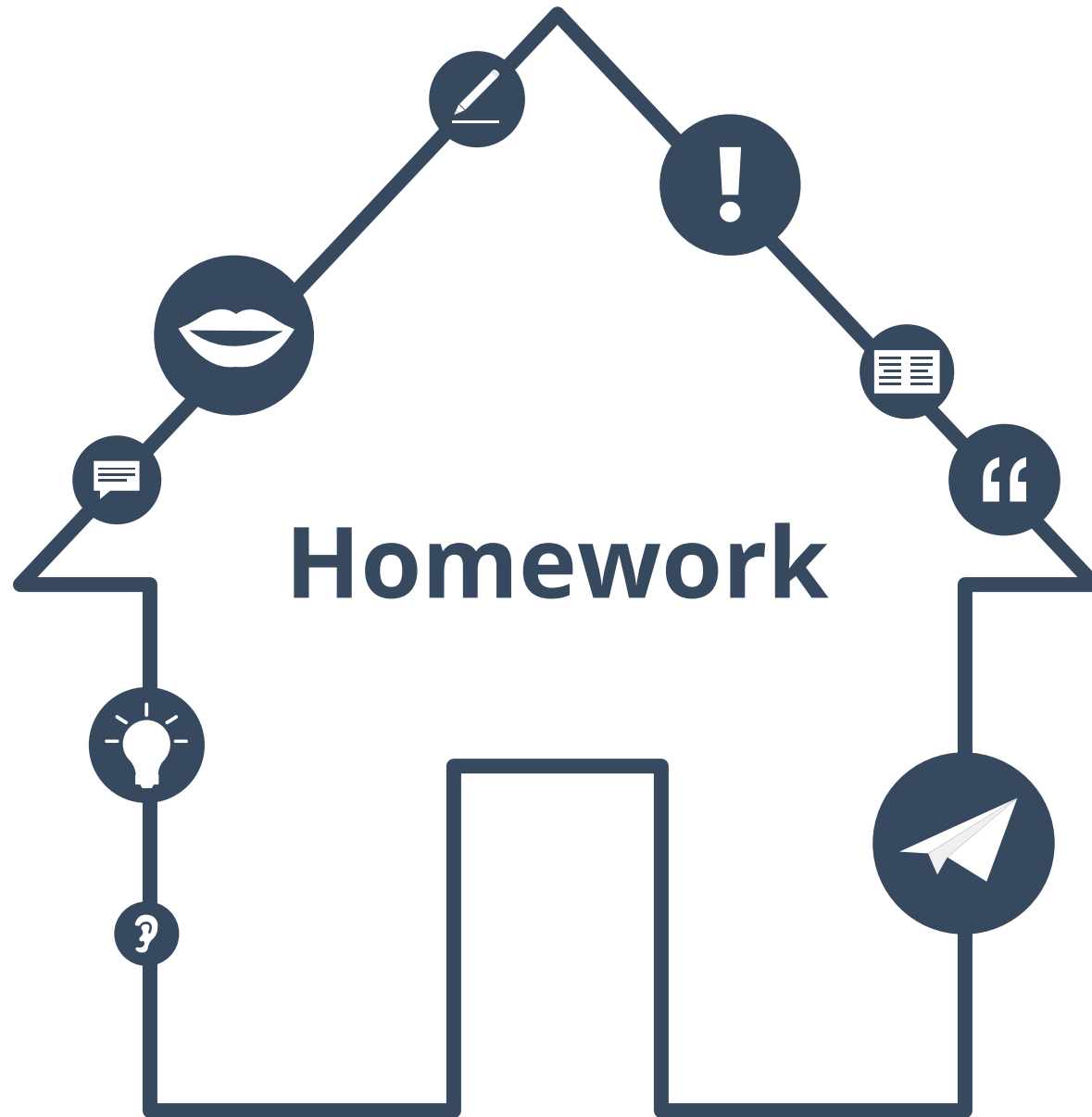
1. chemist – drug store, 2. rubber – eraser, 3. car park – parking lot, 4. town centre – downtown, 5. shop assistant – sales clerk, 6. shopping trolley – shopping cart, 7. trousers – pants, 8. courgette – zucchini, 9. toilet – restroom, 10. aubergine – eggplant

### Exercise p. 12

1. bill (in a restaurant) or cheque (in a bank), 2. sweets, 3. candy floss, 4. tap, 5. caretaker/cleaner, 6. ladybird, 7. phone box, 8. nappy

### Exercise p. 20

1. BrE (jumper), 2. AmE (silverware), 3. BrE (city centre), 4. AmE (go to the movies), 5. AmE (cell phone), 6. BrE (car park)





## Homework: matching

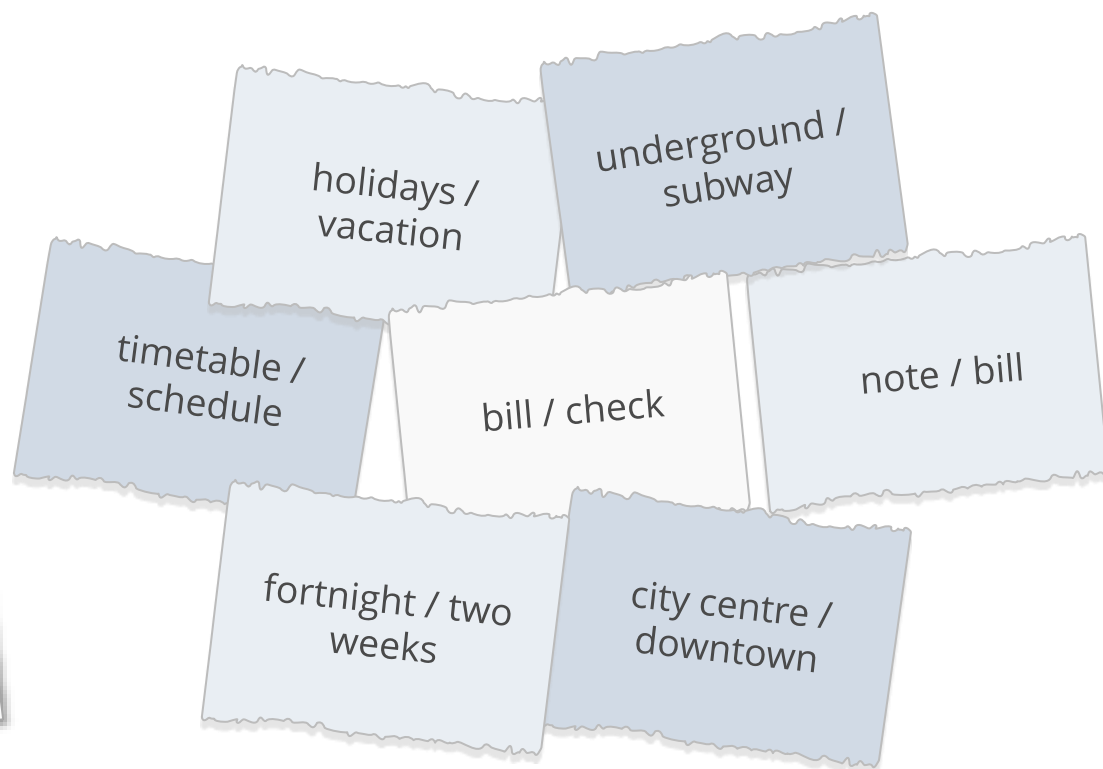
| BrE                    | AmE           |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. launderette         | a. mailbox    |
| 2. headmaster          | b. sidewalk   |
| 3. letterbox           | c. trailer    |
| 4. petrol              | d. laundromat |
| 5. pavement            | e. zip code   |
| 6. pedestrian crossing | f. principal  |
| 7. caravan             | g. crosswalk  |
| 8. postcode            | h. gas        |





## Homework: creating a dialogue

Two colleagues are having a chat about what they did over the summer. One is from London and the other is from Florida.  
Create a dialogue about what they did.





## Homework answer key

### Exercise p. 27

1d, 2f, 3a, 4h, 5b, 6g, 7c, 8e



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