

British Vs American English: 100+ Differences Illustrated

393Kviews

By [Dovas](#)

Given the amount of places around the world that English is spoken, various differences are bound to emerge. Despite how much the USA and UK have in common, there are enough differences between their two versions of the English language that someone may not always understand exactly what someone from the other country is saying. Fortunately, the US State Department has created a series of useful graphics to help clear things up.

The US and the UK's imperial histories and modern influence over the world have changed the English language forever. Because it was exported to countries all over the world, it has been forced to accept different

Even if you're a native speaker of UK or US English, there's a good chance you'll learn something new here. Let us know what the most surprising discovery for you was in the comments!

More info: americanenglish.state.gov (h/t: [designyoutrust](#), [demilked](#))

#1

British & American English

British
trainers



American
sneakers
/ˈsniːkərs/

British
jumper
pullover



American
sweater
/ˈswetər/

British
waistcoat



American
vest
/ˈvest/

British
braces



American
suspenders
/səˈspendəz/



#2

British & American English

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British
chips



American
french fries
/'frɛntʃ 'fraɪz/

British
crisps



American
potato chips
/pə'teɪtəʊ 'tʃɪps/

British
biscuit



American
cookie
/'kʊki/

British
peckish



American
hungry
/'hʌŋɡri/



#3

British & American English



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Spelling Differences

British

colour

aeroplane

cheque

theatre

grey



American

color

airplane

check

theater

gray

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ



American English at State

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#5

British & American English

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British

block of flats

/blɒk əv flæts/



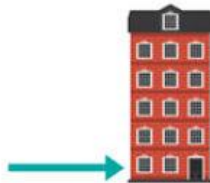
flat

/flæt/



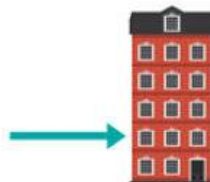
ground floor

/graʊnd flɔː/



first floor

/fɜːst flɔː/



American

apartment building

/ə'pɑːtmənt 'bɪldɪŋ/

apartment

/ə'pɑːtmənt/

first floor / ground floor

/'fɜːst 'floʊ/

second floor

/'sekənd 'floʊ/

#6

British & American English



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British

underground

/ˌʌn.dəˈgraʊnd/



American

subway

/ˈsʌbˌweɪ/

British

chemist's

/ˈkem.ɪsts/



American

drugstore / pharmacy

/ˈdrʌgˌstoʊ/ /ˈfɑːməsi/

British

phone box

/ˈfoʊn ˈbɔːks/



American

phone booth

/ˈfoʊn ˈbuːð/

British

queue

/kjuː/



American

line

/ˈlaɪn/



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#7

British & American English

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British

bonnet

/ˈbɒnɪt/



American

hood

/ˈhʊd/

**boot**

/bu:t/



trunk

/ˈtrʌŋk/

windscreen

/ˈwɪndskriːn/



windshield

/ˈwɪnd.ʃiːld/

indicator

/ˈɪndɪkeɪtə(r)/



blinker (turn signal)

/ˈblɪŋkə/

tyre

/ˈtaɪə(r)/



tire

/'təjə/

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British & American English

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British
takeaway
/'teIkə,weɪ/



American
takeout
/'teIk,ɑʊt/

food prepared and cooked in a restaurant and taken by the customer (to eat somewhere else)

British
timetable
/'taɪm,teɪbəl/

Departures			
Flight	Time	Destination	Gate
BA 301	06:45	LONDON	A101
AA 302	06:55	NEW YORK	A102
DL 303	07:10	PARIS	C103
UA 304	07:20	TORONTO	A104
SW 305	07:30	BERLIN	B105
AF 306	07:45	ROME	B106
QF 307	08:10	MELBURN	C107
AC 308	08:30	AMSTERDAM	B108

American
schedule
/'skɛ,dʒu:l/

a list of the times when something (e.g. bus, train, or airplane) is expected to leave or arrive

British
rubber
/'rʌbər/



American
eraser
/'ɪreɪsər/

a small piece of rubber that is used to erase something that has been written or drawn

British
post
/'pəʊst/



American
mail
/'meɪl/

a system of sending letters and packages from one person to another

#10

British & American English

British
lorry



American
truck
/ˈtrʌk/

British
estate car



American
station wagon
/ˈsteɪʃən ˈwæɡən/

British
flat

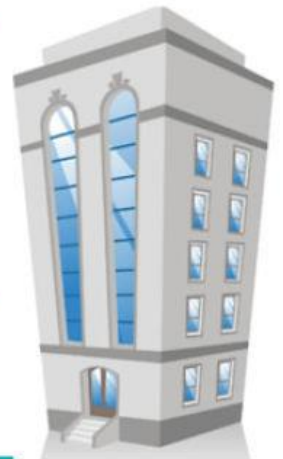


American
apartment
/əˈpɑrtmənt/

British
lift



American
elevator
/ˈɛləˌveɪtər/



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#11

British & American English

Spelling Differences

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British

odour



pyjamas



programme



parlour



apologise



American

odor

pajamas

program

parlor

apologize

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

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#13

British & American English



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British
sweets



American
candy
/'kændi/

British
candy floss



American
cotton candy
/'kɑ:tŋ'kændi/

British
ice lolly



American
popsicle
/'pɑ:psɪkəl/

British
treacle



American
molasses
/mə'læsəz/



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#14

British & American English



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British

torch

/tɔ:tʃ/



American

flashlight

/'flæʃ,laɪt/



British

mobile phone

/'məʊ.baɪl fəʊn/



American

cell phone

/'sɛl 'foʊn/



British

rubbish

/'rʌb.ɪʃ/



American

garbage (trash)

/'gɑːbɪdʒ/



British

bin

/bɪn/



American

trash can

/'træʃ 'kæn/



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#15

British & American English



Spelling Differences -our / -or

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British

behaviour



neighbour



favourite



humour



rumour



American

behavior

neighbor

favorite

humor

rumor

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