

## Difference between British and American English – Words List

<b>The naming of floors in the building</b>	
<b>British English</b>	<b>American English</b>
Basement Ground floor First floor Second floor Third floor <i>Example: At the moment, I'm on the ground floor? Are you on the second floor?</i>	Basement First floor Second floor Third floor Fourth floor <i>Example: At the moment, I'm on the first floor? Are you on the third floor?</i>
<b>A little bit more about buildings</b>	
<b>British English</b>	<b>American English</b>
Block of flats Terrace <i>Example: Tom and Anne live on a beautiful terrace.</i>	Apartment house/ Building Townhouse <i>Tom and Anne live in a beautiful townhouse.</i>
<b>And what about the shops? Are they the same... or perhaps not?</b>	
<b>British English</b>	<b>American English</b>
Chemist Surgery Caffe Ironmonger Bungalow Newsagent Off license/ Wine merchant Bureau de change <i>Example: I have to change the money. Will you go with me to a bureau de change?</i>	Drugstore/ Druggist Doctor's office Diner Hardware store House/ Ranch House News dealer/ News stand Liquor store Currency exchange <i>I have to change the money. Will you go with me to the currency exchange?</i>

<b>In the house</b>	
<b>British English</b>	<b>American English</b>
Garden	Backyard/ Yard
Tap	Faucet
Cupboard	Closet
Wardrobe	Closet
Curtains	Drapes
Net curtains	Sheers/ Under drapes
Bin/ Dust Bin	Trash Can
Telephone/ Blower/ Phone	Telephone
Television/ Box/ TV/ Telly	Television/ TV
Cooker ( gas/electric cooker)	Range/ Stove
Couch/ Sofa/ Settee	Sofa
Sofa	Davenport/ Couch
Hand Basin/ Sink	Sink
Bath	Bath tub
Run the bath	Fill the tub
Sitting room	Living room
Living room	Living room
Lounge	Living room
Drawing room	Living room
The Toilet/ Visiting the little boys'/girls' room	Bathroom/ Restroom
<u>Please note: Bathroom is the room where the bath is and where you want to take a bath.</u>	
<i>Example: I watch the telly whilst sitting on the settee.</i>	<i>I watch the TV while sitting on the sofa.</i>
<b>Spelling</b>	
<b>British English</b>	<b>American English</b>
1. Words that end in -re in British English, often end in -er in American English	
Centre	Center
Fibre	Fiber
Litre	Liter
Theatre	Theater
<i>Example: There is a new theatre in the centre.</i>	<i>There is a new theater in the center.</i>

<p>2. Words that end in -nce in British English, have their ending as -nse in American English</p>	
Defence	Defense
Licence	License
Offence	Offense
Pretence	Pretense
<p><i>Example: In my defence, I do have a licence.</i></p>	
<p>3. While some of the British speakers find it correct to use the ending -ize in British English like American speakers do, other British consider it wrong and use the ending -ise.</p>	
Apologise	Apologize
Organise	Organize
Recognise	Recognize
<p><i>Example: Oh, I'm so sorry, I didn't recognise you at all.</i></p>	
<p>4. In British English, the preferred ending is -our, while in American English is -or. It is also the most apparent spelling difference between these two English dialects.</p>	
Behaviour	Behavior
Colour	Color
Flavour	Flavor
Humour	Humor
Labour	Labor
Neighbour	Neighbor
<p><i>Example: Our new neighbour is such a lovely girl, full of humour.</i></p>	
<p>5. Words with Greek or Latin roots are more complex to spell in British English, while in American English, they are simplified.</p>	
Leukaemia	Leukemia
Manoeuvre	Maneuver
Oestrogen	Estrogen
Paediatric	Pediatric
<p><i>Example: Even a child knows that leukaemia is not connected to oestrogen at all.</i></p>	

<p>6. In British English, the letter 'l' is still generally used double. In American English, however, this is, of course, simplified, so they use the letter 'l' once.</p>	
<p>Travelling</p> <p>Travelled</p> <p>Fuelling</p> <p>Fuelled</p> <p><i>Example: Whilst I've been travelling, I came across my old friend.</i></p>	<p>Traveling</p> <p>Traveled</p> <p>Fueling</p> <p>Fueled</p> <p><i>While I've been traveling, I came across my old friend.</i></p>
<p><b>Other spelling differences</b></p>	
<p>Aeroplane</p> <p>Cheque</p> <p>Grey</p> <p><i>Example: Grey's family's favourite colour is not grey.</i></p>	<p>Airplane</p> <p>Check</p> <p>Gray</p> <p><i>Grey's family's favorite color is not gray.</i></p>
<p><b>Differences in vegetables</b></p>	
<p>Courgette</p> <p>Aubergine</p> <p>Jacket potato</p> <p>Runner bean</p> <p><i>Example: Do you prefer courgette or aubergine?</i></p>	<p>Zucchini</p> <p>Eggplant</p> <p>Baked potato</p> <p>String bean</p> <p><i>Do you prefer zucchini or eggplant?</i></p>

<b>Are you peckish or hungry? Differences in food</b>	
Black treacle Chips Corn flour Crisps Biscuit Peckish Sweets Starter Bill (at restaurant) Rasher Take-away Icing sugar Kipper Marrow Scone Sorbet Candyfloss Puddings/ Afters/ Dessert/ Sweets Black or white (coffee)? Example: I like chips, but I prefer crisps.	Molasses French fries Corn starch Potato chips Cookie Hungry Candy Appetizer Check A slice of bacon Take-out Confectioner's/ powdered sugar Smoked herring Squash Biscuit Sherbet Cotton candy Dessert With or without (sugar)? I like french fries, but I prefer potato chips.
<b>How do British and American dress?</b>	
Trainers Plimsolls Wellington Jumper/ pullover Waistcoat Braces Bootlace/ Shoelace Clothes peg Dressing gown Nappy Polo neck Pyjamas Swimming costume Rubber Zip Bowler/ hard hat  Example: Have you packed dressing gown and pyjamas? No, but I have packed a swimming costume.	Sneakers Gym shoes Wellies, Boots Sweater Vest Suspenders Shoestring Clothespin Bathrobe Diaper Turtle neck Pajamas Bathing suit Boot Zipper Derby  Example: Have you packed bathrobe and pajamas? No, but I have packed a bathing suit.

<b><i>On the road in Britain vs. America</i></b>	
Dual carriageway	Divided highway
Sleeping Policeman/ speed bump	Speed bump
Car park	Parking lot
Car journey/ drive	Road trip
Zebra Crossing/ Pedestrian Crossing	Cross walk
Lollipop man or lady	Crossing Guard
Motor way	Super highway
Lorry	Truck
Articulated lorry Tractor Truck/ Trailer	Truck
Estate car	Station wagon
Skip	Dumpster
Petrol	Gas/ Gasoline
Pavement	Sidewalk
Roundabout (road)	Traffic circle
Fly-over	Overpass
Fire Engine	Fire Truck
Convoy	Caravan
Caravan	Trailer
<i>Example: Be careful! There is a sleeping policeman near that school.</i>	<i>Be careful! There is a speed bump near that school.</i>
<b><i>Parts of a car</i></b>	
Bonnet	Hood
Boot	Trunk
Gear level	Gear shift
Exhaust pipe	Tail pipe/ Muffler
Number plate	Reversing plate
Reversing light	Back-up lights
Windscreen	Windshield
<i>Example: I need to have repaired my windscreen.</i>	<i>I need to have repaired my windshield.</i>

<b>British English or American English- At school</b>	
Friend/ Mate Rubber Holiday Marking Scheme  Mucking Around/ Off Task Open Day/ Open Evening Play Time/ Break Packed Lunch School Dinner Public School State School Drawing pins Headmaster/ Headmistress/Headteacher Caretaker/ Porter  <i>Example: Our headmaster is a charming man.</i>	Friend Eraser Vacation Grading Scheme  Off Task/ Fooling Around/ Goofing off Open House Time Recess Bag Lunch Hot Lunch State School Public School Pushpins/ Thumbtacks Principal Janitor  <i>Our principal is a charming man.</i>
<b>What about words and phrases about people?</b>	
Girl/ Lass Boy/ Lad Man/ Bloke/ Chap/ Gentleman/Guy Policeman/ Bobby/ Copper Postman Dustman Friend/ Pal/ Chum/ Mate/ Buddy Cashier Lollypop Man Guard ( railway) Solicitor Caretaker/ Porter Nutter	Girl Boy Man/ Guy Cop Postal Worker/ Mailman/ Mail Carrier Garbage Man Friend/ Buddy Teller Crossing Guard Conductor Lawyer/ Attorney Janitor Crazy Person

<b><i>Other meaningful differences</i></b>	
Autumn To book Butter muslin/ Cheese cloth Catapult Conscription Cotton  Cotton reel Cotton wool	Fall To make a reservation Cheese cloth Slingshot Draft Thread  Spool Cotton batting
<i>Example: The most beautiful thing in autumn are leaves</i>	<i>The most beautiful thing in fall are leaves</i>
<b>The most beautiful word in British and in American English</b>	
Mum/ Mummy	Mom/ Mommy



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