

Language Varieties

- American English
- British English
- Australian English
- Canadian English
- Indian English
- Jamaican English
- New Zealander English
- South African English



Canadian vs American English

Is there any differences?





English is spoken around the world, but it sounds very different in different countries! British English and American English have a lot of differences — native speakers can hear a British or American accent in just a few words (can you?). But what about Canadians and Americans? Do these neighbors speak differently? Just a little bit. Here are some of the most common differences.

PRONUNCIATION

Pasta, Drama, Obama

Some words with an "a" in the middle have a different pronunciation north of the border. For example, let's look at the word "pasta". In the US, the first syllable rhymes with "lost". In Canada it sounds like "past". We see this difference with the word "drama", names like "Mario", "Natasha" and "Alana". (Most of these are "borrowed" words that come from other languages.)

"About" or "a boat"?

The pronunciation of words with "ou" is the most famous feature of Canadian English. Some common examples include out, about, and house. Canadians say these words like "oat", "a boat", or "hose".

Americans like to joke about how Canadians pronounce these words. The show South Park is famous for making fun of Canadians and their accents. You might hear an American say that Canadians say "a boot" instead of "about", but this is an exaggeration.

WASHROOM

Restroom

Canadian vocabulary

There are some words in Canada that are not British at all. These words are unique to Canada and the northern USA.

In England, a public toilet is usually called a "loo". In the USA, it's a "restroom". In Canada, they say "washroom". In someone's home, you can say "washroom" or "bathroom". (Of course, there are about a dozen other names for a bathroom between these three countries.)

What do you call a sweet, bubbly drink? In the USA, it could be a "soft drink", a "soda", a "coke" (some places say "coke" even for other drinks like 7UP or Fanta), or "pop". "Pop" is used in the northern US states (particularly the midwest) and everywhere in Canada.



Is it true, eh?

Nice weather today, eh?

The other Canadian language habit that all Americans know is "eh". Canadians sometimes say this at the end of a sentence, with a rising intonation. "Eh" is used in casual conversation, and especially for small talk.

| *Nice weather we're having, eh?*

| *They're pretty crazy, eh?*

| *She's coming back early, eh?*

Some younger Canadians say "hey" instead of "eh", but it works the same way.

| *You're from Brampton, hey?*

| *It not easy, hey?*



SORRY OR PARDON ME ?



Sorry!

In Canada, "sorry" rhymes with "story". In the USA, it rhymes with "Ferrari".

Canadians are also known for saying "sorry" a lot more than Americans. People joke that if you step on a Canadian's foot, they will say sorry to you! However, there's no real research or evidence about this.

Several vocabulary differences also come from British English. While Americans may say "pardon" or "pardon me", they are more likely to say "excuse me". Canadians say "pardon me", or "pardon" more often.

Interesting because I am a teacher, you know



How Canadians talk about school

There are some major differences between education in the US and Canada, and these vocabulary differences show that.

One difference is that instead of saying "first grade" or "seventh grade" like Americans, Canadians say "grade one" or "grade seven". Canadian high schoolers are in "grade nine" through "grade twelve".

Like Canada, most American high schools have four grades: 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th. However, in the USA, these years are often referred to as "freshman year", "sophomore year", "junior year", and "senior year". The same words are used for the four years of college. Canadians don't use these terms at all! And for university, they say "first year" through "fourth year". And of course for high school, they say "grade nine" through "grade twelve".

In the USA, "college" and "university" are basically the same thing. "College" is a more common term. In fact, to an American, saying you're "in university" or a "university student" sounds a bit strange. If someone is going to a school for a certificate or non-Bachelor degree, it's usually at a "community college".

In Canada, an institution with four-year Bachelor programs is usually a "university", especially if it has graduate programs. If you say "college" in Canada, it's like "junior college" or "community college" in the US.

The Final Word

It's true that Canadians speak a little bit differently than Americans, sometimes. It's also true that people from Vancouver speak a little differently than people from Toronto. And between the two countries, people from Portland sound a lot like people from Vancouver, and people from Minnesota sound a lot like people from Manitoba. And of course, every individual speaks a bit differently from the next individual. It's very difficult to find many general rules for Canadian and American English differences.

And you don't need to worry — *it doesn't matter what kind of English you speak.* If Americans understand you, Canadians will too.

Got the information here

<http://www.phrasemix.com/answers/how-are-canadian-english-and-american-english-different>

Interesting
comments 😊





Shawn Jorgensen · 4 months ago

I was born in Canada and I'm 50 and I've lived in 3 provinces and I've never heard a Canadian pronounce "house" like "hose". We say how.s like the rest of the world. About is like "a bout" - a fighting match. NO ONE EVER says "a boot". You wear a boot a.bout the howsss.

Where do you GET this from good Lord

One word I never understood - British or not - was "left-tenant" for lieutenant. Aluminum is also most bizarre in the UK - [Al.you.](#)'min.ee.yum instead of a.loom.in.em

And no one here says "eh" unless we are actually mocking the fact that supposedly Canadians say it. Like Bob and Doug McKenzie from SCTV's famous "take off, eh?" (No one says "take off" either since like the 70s, usually when you irritatingly kicked a rude drunk out of your yard.

Yes: past.a, [dra.ma](#) like dram.a
not [draw.ma](#). Many of us also say [gram.ma](#) and [gram.pa](#) not gram.maw or gram.paw like some

Your last sentence made me laugh: "And you don't need to worry — it doesn't matter what kind of English you speak. If Americans understand you, Canadians will too.". I do not understand half of what Americans in the South, the Bronx, Boston say at times. I ordered a Big Mac meal in Jackson MS when I was 15 and the lady said what I think was my order - I got "Coke" and friiiiiiiiiies but the BeegMee.yak was my favorite. (God I hope there was no yak in my burger)☐☐☐

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Angèle Liane Morgan → Shawn Jorgensen · 3 months ago

Uh... lifelong Canadian here. I most definitely say "eh" and so does nearly everyone I know (except my Jamaican dad).

And there's not been a grade 13 in Ontario for decades. When I was in high school there was OAC, but it was phased out about 4 years after I graduated.

^ | v · Reply · Share ›



Random person · a month ago



Some of this is true and some isn't. Yes Canadians say sorry a lot, unless your from Vancouver(Which is considered Canada's New York) where I barley hear people apologizing. Yes we say pop, other then myself I say soda. Yes we use the terms "Grade four" "Grade 8" etc. But we don't say "about" that's not a word. Either you have "a boot" or your talking "about" something. I've also never really hear a Canadian say pardon me unless you're being EXTREAMLY polite. Most people just say excuse me. And who the hell calls their house a hose? Those are two different things! Nothing alike at all.

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THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION

