



# **A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO AMERICAN ENGLISH**

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Hello.

**Dear friend!**

Have u ever traveled 2 the US? Du u no how to rite it rite? So, if u r interested, u r on the rite way!

**Here's a guide 4 u.**

And, btw, would u love 2 have an e-pal?

Surprised?

Well, do u speak BrE?

[Then look up here](#)



# AME VS. BRE – DIFFERENCES

- ❑ Spelling;
- ❑ Pronunciation;
- ❑ Vocabulary;
- ❑ Grammar.





- ❑ Regular differences: **centre** (BrE) – **center** (AmE), **theatre** – **theater**, **colour** - **color**, **catalogue** – **catalog**, **honour** – **honor**, **favourite** – **favorite**, **cheque** – **check**, **prison** – **jail** and others.
- ❑ Deviant spelling (deviation from the norm): **'They're finger-lickin' good'**.
- ❑ Accurate pronunciation of the word (formal and informal speech): **night** - **nite**, **through** – **thru**, **right** – **rite**.

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# PRONUNCIATION

- ❑ AmE pronounces the final /r / - are you /a:r ju:/: are easy / a:r i:zi/;  
BrE says the final /r/ before vowels (vocalization) – are easy / a:r i:zi/;
- ❑ individual differences: **ate** - /eit/ AmE – /aet/ BrE, **schedule** – /ˈskedʒuəl/ - /ˈʃedju:l/;
- ❑ **long** and **short** pronunciation of the letter **A**: **ask** - /aesk/  
AmE – /a: sk/ BrE
- ❑ word stress in endings: **-ary/-ory** : secretary AmE –  
secretary BrE, laboratory – laboratory , **inquiry** – inquiry;  
**-et**: ballet – ballet, cigarette – cigarette, valet – valet;  
**and other**: magazine – magazine, moustache –  
moustache, premier – premier, princess – princess,  
weekend – weekend.



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- Some words are only in AmE, others - only in BrE (**congress** AmE - **parliament** BrE, **apartment** – **flat**, **cub** – **taxi**, **candy** – **sweets**, **elevator** – **lift**, **fall** – **autumn**, **mail** – **post**, **canteen** – **cafeteria**, **vacation** - **holiday**); some words are unambiguous (**checking account** - **current account** ).
- Some words have one value from the WSE and more additional values (**caravan** «refers to a group of travelers in the desert" in both versions, in BrE it means **vehicle**, in AmE – **trailer**, **van**). Both variants have the word **undertaker**, but AmE has also the word **mortician**.

- Lexical differences in the **car terminology** (**gas** (**gasoline**) AmE –**petrol** BrE; **automobile** – **car**; **gas pedal** – **accelerator**; **hood** – **bonnet**; **tire** – **tyre**; **truck** – **lorry**; **trunk** – **boot**; **windshield** - **wind-screen**);
- Idioms have different meaning. ‘**The play was a real bomb**’ AmE =‘**a total disaster**’ – BrE= ‘**a huge success**’.



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# Grammar Expert



## GRAMMAR

- Irregular verbs – **burned** (AmE) - **burnt** (BrE), **get, got, gotten** - **get, got, got**;
  - Possession phrase - **Do you have the time?** - **Have you got the time?**; responses are different (**I don't** - **I haven't**);
  - AmE uses Past Simple where BrE uses Present Perfect (**I just ate** - **I have just eaten**);
  - In AmE **will / won't** substitute **shall / shan't**;
  - The word order in the noun phrase is different (**Hudson River** - **River Thames**, **a half hour** - **half an hour**);
- 
- AmE prefers **was** (**I wish she was here** - **I wish she were here**);
  - adverbs (**I'll go momentarily** - **I'll go in a moment**, **real good** - **really good**, **backward** - **backwards**);
  - Parallel excuses (**They live on X street** - **they live in X street**; **I'll see you over the weekend** - **I'll see you at the weekend**; **Monday through Friday** - **Monday to Friday inclusive**).

[to learn more look up here](#)





**u – you**

**2 – to**

**du – do**

**no – know**

**rite – write, right**

**r – are**

**4 – for**

**btw – by the way**

**idk – I don't know**





# PRACTISE OR PRACTICE?

- ❑ <http://esl.about.com/library/vocabulary/blbritam.htm>;
- ❑ <http://esl.about.com/od/grammarlessons/a/chant17.htm>
- ❑ <http://esl.about.com/od/grammarlessons/a/chant18.htm>;
- ❑ <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/how/how-understand-differences-between-british-and-american-english>.

**TO LEARN A BRIEF HISTORY OF ENGLISH  
AND  
ITS VARIANTS**



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