

The United States and the United Kingdom



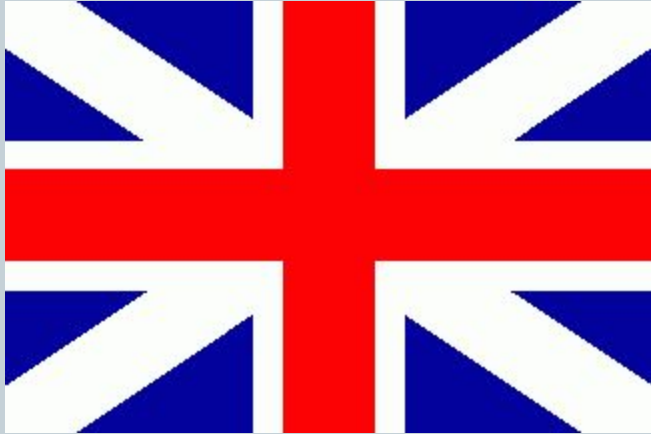
**“TWO COUNTRIES DIVIDED BY
A COMMON LANGUAGE” –
GEORGE BERNARD SHAW**

The British Empire



- The English language was introduced to America through colonization.
- The first English settlement was established in Jamestown, Virginia in 1607.
- The language also spread to other parts of the world as a result of British trade and colonization. By 1921 the former British Empire controlled a population of 470 to 570 million people (a $\frac{1}{4}$ of the world's population).

The History of English



- Over 400 years, the English language has changed into two versions we refer to as American English and Standard British English.
- Differences include: pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, spelling, punctuation, idioms, and formatting of dates.

Dates



- The way dates are formatted in the UK & USA is different:
 - 05/01/2013: British English – DD/MM/YYYY
 - 01/05/2013: American English – MM/DD/YYYY
- The way UK and USA speakers say dates is also different:
 - 5th of January 2013 – British English
 - January 5th, 2013 – American English
- It gets a bit confusing!

Spelling



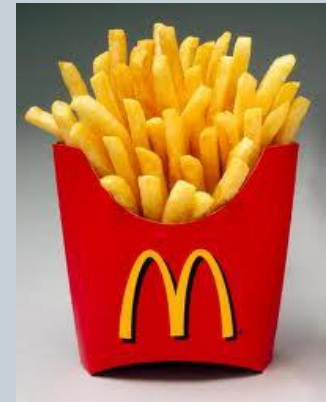
- American English does not use the letter U in words ending in –or.
 - Example: Labour/ Labor, Favour/Favor, Savour/Savor, Colour/Color
- American English does not always use double consonants.
 - Example: Traveller/Traveler
- American English has changed words ending in “re” to “er.”
 - Example: Fibre / Fiber, Centre / Center, Theatre / Theater
- American English has changed “C” to “S” in words.
 - Example: Defence / Defense, Offence / Offense
- American English has changed “S” into “Z.”
 - Example: Recognise / Recognize, Hyponotise / Hypnotize, Realise / Realize

Vocabulary



- There are many objects that are described by different words in British and American English.
 - Examples:
 - Dustbin and Trash Can
 - Rubbish and Garbage
- Differences most likely to create confusion are those where the same word or phrase is used for two different objects.

- Examples:
 - French Fries □ Chips
 - Chips □ Crisps
 - Crisps □ Chips
 - Chips □ French Fries



British and American English



apartment
flat



cab
taxi



can
tin



candy
sweet



chips
crisps



closet
wardrobe



cookie
biscuit



corn
maize



diaper
nappy



drapes
curtains



overalls
dungarees



elevator
lift



eraser
rubber



fall
autumn



faucet
tap



flashlight
torch



fries
chips



garbage
rubbish



gasoline
petrol



highway
motorway



hood
bonnet



jello
jelly



license plate
number plate



line
queue



mail
post



movie
film



pajamas
pyjamas



pants
trousers



Scotch tape
Sellotape



sidewalk
pavement



sneakers
trainers



soccer
football



stove
cooker



subway
underground



tire
tyre



truck
lorry



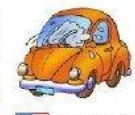
trunk
boot



vacation
holiday



vest
waistcoat



windshield wiper
windscreen wiper



yard
garden



zipper
zip

Pronunciation



- The /æ/ sound becomes /a:/ in American English.
 - Example: Fast / Path / Grass
- The /o/ sound is pronounced with lips rounded only in British English.
 - Example: Not / Lot / Hot / Top
- Unaccented syllables are very slightly pronounced in British English.
 - Example: literature.
- Ts are less pronounced in American English.
 - Example: Meter / Twenty
- The double T turns into a D sound in American English.
 - Example: Kettle / Battle / Bottle / Little

Pronunciation



- Vitamin
- Garage
- Controversy
- Scone
- Schedule
- Aluminum / Aluminium

ACCENT VIDEOS



- [Regional American Accents](#)
- [The English Accent in 24 Languages](#) (British)