

British & American English

British English is spoken mainly in the United Kingdom while American English is spoken mainly in the USA. Although they are the same language, there are some differences in spelling, pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary.

Many common words we use or see every day are different in British and American English. Or the same word can have a different meaning.

You can use both British and American English for international communication. If you are taking a British examination, like KET or PET, you can use either British or American English but you should do it consistently.

In your dictionary you will find a lot of information about words that are used in American or British English with different meanings and words that are spelled differently. Most words are given only one pronunciation, which is acceptable in British and American English.

a. Which of the following words are British and which are American English? Write Br E or Am E next to each one.

apartment	_____	cookies	_____	motorway	_____	trainers	_____
autumn	_____	elevator	_____	pants	_____	trousers	_____
biscuits	_____	fall	_____	parking lot	_____	truck	_____
cab	_____	French fries	_____	rubbish	_____	vacation	_____
candy	_____	garbage	_____	semester	_____	wardrobe	_____
car park	_____	highway	_____	subway	_____		
chips	_____	lift	_____	sweets	_____		
closet	_____	lorry	_____	toilet	_____		

b. Complete this table.

British English	American English
_____	candy
_____	two weeks
chips	_____
_____	vest
petrol	_____
pavement	_____
_____	sneakers
football	_____
crisps	_____

c. Look at these pairs of words. Which is the British spelling and which is the American spelling? Use your dictionary to make sure.

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|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. color - colour | 5. meter - metre |
| 2. traveler - traveller | 6. license - licence |
| 3. dialog - dialogue | 7. labor - labour |
| 4. centre - center | 8. cancelling - canceling |