

American and British English—

the same, but different

American and British people speak the same language—English, but with some small differences.

VOCABULARY

Some words are different in British English, for example, British people say *postcode*, not *zip code*, *holiday*, not *vacation*, and *mobile phone*, not *cell phone*. Some words have different meanings, for example in American English, a *purse* is a woman's bag. In British English, a *purse* is a small thing (like a wallet) where women have their money and credit cards.

SPELLING

Color, *favor*, and other words that end in *-or* in American English end with *-our* in British English, e.g., *colour*, *favour*. *Center*, *theater*, and other words that end in *-ter* in American English end with *-tre* in British English, e.g., *centre*, *theatre*.

GRAMMAR

British grammar is very similar to American grammar, but with some small differences, especially prepositions. For example, British people say *See you on Friday*, but Americans say *See you Friday*.

PRONUNCIATION

The most important difference between American and British English is pronunciation. American accents and British accents are very different, and when a British person starts speaking, American people know he or she is British, and vice versa.

LIVEWORKSHEETS