



### Dictionary labels

#### 1 Match the dictionary labels with their definitions.

- a British
- b American
- c formal
- d informal

- 1 Not used in everyday speech or writing.
- 2 Used in American English, but not in British English.
- 3 Used commonly in speech, but not in writing.
- 4 Used in British English, but not in American English.

#### 2 Use an appropriate label from Exercise 1 as a heading for the word lists (1-3).

1	2	3
sweets	guy	alight
pavement	nerd	beverage
rubbish bin		refrain

Check your answers in the dictionary extracts.

#### 3 Work with a partner. Decide what each notice means and where you might see it. Use the dictionary extracts to help you.



- a Foot passengers please disembark via the steps at the front of the ferry
- b All cyclists must dismount here
- c The use of calculators is not permissible
- d Do not alight from the train whilst it is still in motion

Write less formal versions of each notice.

a Please don't use your calculator.

#### 4 Rewrite these sentences in American English.

- a Last year, I took my holiday in the autumn.  
Last year, I went on vacation in the fall.
- b We keep our rubbish bin on the pavement in front of our house.
- c I never eat sweets or biscuits between meals.
- d I get angry with lorry drivers who go too fast on the motorway.
- e There's a postbox near to the Underground station.

Are any of the sentences true for you?

#### 5 Check your own dictionary. What kinds of labels does it use?

**alight**<sup>2</sup> /ə'lait/ verb [I] *formal* to get off a train, bus, or other vehicle

**autumn** /'ɔ:təm/ noun [C/U] British fall

**beverage** /'bev(ə)rɪdʒ/ noun [C] *formal* a drink

**biscuit** /'biskɪt/ noun [C] British cookie

**disembark** /dɪsəm'bɑ:k/ verb [I] *formal* to get off a ship or plane

**dismount** /dɪs'maʊnt/ verb [I] *formal* to get off a horse or a bike

**guy** /gʌɪ/ noun [C] ★★ *informal* a man

**highway** /'haɪwےɪ/ noun [C] ★ a wide road that has been built for fast travel between towns and cities

**holiday** /'hɒlɪ,dɪ/ noun [C/U] ★★ British a vacation

**lorry** /'lɔ:ri/ noun [C] British a truck

**motorway** /'məutər,waɪ/ noun [C] British a large highway

**nerd** /nɜ:d/ noun [C] *informal* someone who is boring and not fashionable

**pavement** /'peɪvəmənt/ noun [C] British a sidewalk

**permissible** /pər'misəb(ə)l/ adj *formal* if something is permissible, you are allowed to do it

**persons** /'pɜ:rs(ə)nz/ noun [C] *formal* the plural of person is people, but in formal or official language the form persons is used

**postbox** /'pəʊst,bəks/ noun [C] British a mailbox

**purchase**<sup>1</sup> /'pɜ:tʃəs/ verb [T] *formal* to buy something

**stop yourself from doing something**

**rubbish bin** /'ræbɪʃ,bin/ noun [C] British trash can

**sweets** /swi:ts/ noun [C] British candy

**Underground, the** /'ʌndəgraʊnd/ noun [singular] British the subway

From the Macmillan Essential Dictionary for Learners of American English.