

A. How well do you know American and British English differences? Complete the table below. Then read the text and check your answers. 

British English	American English
autumn	
	trash
	trunk
petrol	

British English	American English
zebra crossing	
biscuit	
chips	
	chips

## Which English do you speak?

Over 1 billion people speak English worldwide, either as a first or second language. It is the international language of communications, science, information technology, business, entertainment, radio and politics. This makes some people imagine that it is a single language, spoken in the same way throughout the world. However, there are many variations not only in pronunciation but also in spelling and vocabulary. Let's see what happens with British and American English.

From the 17th century people began travelling from Great Britain to North America to live, which is how the first form of American English began. Some English pronunciations and words have stayed the same in the US since their arrival, but in England they have changed over the years. This explains differences in English such as the word for the season 'fall' (AmE\*) or 'autumn' (BrE\*). The word 'fall' is in fact Old English and not a new 'Americanism'. The same is the case with the word 'trash' (the AmE word for 'rubbish'). The English of North America has also been influenced by the different European settlers that arrived from the 1600s. For example, the word 'boss' comes from Dutch.

Nowadays almost everyone has heard American English, through music on the radio and films or 'movies' at the cinema. This means that even if there are differences,

most people are familiar with them. However, if you are not aware of these differences, some misunderstandings can occur. For example when it comes to cars and driving, British English speakers call the space for bags at the back of the car, the 'boot', and Americans call it the 'trunk'. A car that is driven with gears is called 'manual' (BrE) and 'stick' in the US. A British English speaker may find it funny to think of someone 'driving a stick'. In the UK, you fill a car with 'petrol' but in the US it's called 'gas'. A 'crosswalk' in the US is known as a 'zebra crossing' in the UK. Regarding food there are also several differences. For example a 'cookie' in the US is a 'biscuit' in the UK. Fried potatoes are 'chips' in British English and 'fries' in America. If you are British and you ask for 'chips' in the US, you'll get some 'crisps'.

So these differences may seem serious at first, but in actual fact they are unlikely to cause problems and are more amusing than confusing. The reality is that whatever English you speak you will be able to get by throughout the world because English is an international language and international English is replacing both American and British English.

\*AmE = American English  
\*BrE = British English

B. Read the text again and write T for True or F for False.

- There are over 1 billion non-native speakers of English.
- The pronunciation and vocabulary are not the only differences which exist between American and British English.
- There are certain words which have changed in England but not in the US.
- The word 'trash' comes from Dutch.
- An American would laugh if someone told him that he drives a stick.
- The word 'chips' exists in both British and American English, but has a different meaning.
- It is difficult to communicate in the UK if you do not speak British English.

### Project



#### Do research!

Do some research on the Internet and look for examples of words and phrases that are different in British and American English. Draw a table and complete it with twenty of them in both versions. Words with spelling differences may also be included.

A. What do you know about the Central Market in Kuala Lumpur? What can visitors do there? Read the text and check your answers. 

# KUALA LUMPUR CENTRAL MARKET

Kuala Lumpur is famous for being a great place for shopping. There is something for everyone from very modern shopping centres selling popular brands to street markets where visitors can find amazing bargains. However, anyone looking for a truly Malaysian experience should head to the Kuala Lumpur Central Market.

The Central Market is almost as old as Kuala Lumpur itself. In 1888, it began as a market where fresh fruit, vegetables, meat and fish were sold. However, in the 1980's this market was moved to a new location and the old building was turned into a centre for Malaysian culture, arts and crafts. Today, there are over 6,500 square metres of shopping space along lanes created to show what makes Malaysian society special. As you enter the market, on your left hand, there are three lanes or lorongs created especially for the three main groups of people living in Malaysia - the Malays, Chinese and Indians. They are called Lorong India, Lorong Melayu and Lorong Cina. In these lanes, the goods and services sold are special for each culture. In Lorong India, for example, traditional Indian clothes and jewellery are sold. In another lane, called Lorong Kelapa, visitors can enjoy traditional Malay snacks. There are also several other lanes, and visitors are sure to find something of interest.

Shopping is not the only thing to do at the Central Market. At the back of the market, there are art



galleries where visitors can find works of art made by talented local artists and may even get to watch them create new works. There is a DIY Batik Art Workshop where they can learn the art of Batik and even create something of their own. There is also a gallery where visitors can learn all about Chinese calligraphy, the ancient art of beautiful writing which is so important to the Chinese. Throughout the year, martial arts and local dance performances are held, and special events also take place at the market to celebrate various cultural festivals.

Kuala Lumpur is a city where people from many different backgrounds live and work peacefully together, and the Central Market is the perfect place to observe this. When visiting Kuala Lumpur Central Market, take your time and enjoy the fascinating and colourful culture and heritage of Kuala Lumpur.

Source of information: : <http://www.centralmarket.com.my/>

B. Read the text again and write T for True, F for False or NM for Not Mentioned.

1. The Central Market is the oldest market in Kuala Lumpur.
2. The largest groups of people living in Kuala Lumpur are the Malays, the Chinese and the Indians.
3. In Lorong Kelapa, visitors can try Malaysian food.
4. There are only three lanes in the market.
5. People who don't like shopping probably won't enjoy the Central Market.
6. Sometimes, visitors can see artists at work.
7. The DIY Batik Art Workshop in Central Market is the most popular with tourists.
8. Visitors can watch live performances at the Central Market all year round.

## Project

### Do research!

Do some research on the Internet and find information and photos about a market in another country. Make a poster and present it to the class.