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.

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

LIVEWORKSHEETS