

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