



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**.