8 Vocabulary Extra

Dictionary labels

1 Match the dictionary labels with their definitions.

a British	1 Not used in everyday speech or writing.
b American	2 Used in American English, but not in British English.
c formal	3 Used commonly in speech, but not in writing.
d informal	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.

1

2

3

4

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?

alight² /əˈlaɪt/ verb [I] *formal* to get off a train, bus, or other vehicle

autumn /ˈɔtəm/ noun [C/U] *British* fall

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

biscuit /ˈbɪskɪt/ noun [C] *British* cookie

disembark /ˌdɪsɪmˈbɑrk/ verb [I] *formal* to get off a ship or plane

dismount /dɪsˈmaʊnt/ verb [I] *formal* to get off a horse or a bike

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

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

holiday /ˈhɑlɪˌdeɪ/ noun [C/U] ★★★ *British* a vacation

lorry /ˈlɔri/ noun [C] *British* a truck

motorway /ˈmoʊtərˌweɪ/ noun [C] *British* a large highway

nerd /nɜrd/ noun [C] *informal* someone who is boring and not fashionable

pavement /ˈpeɪvmənt/ noun [C] *British* a sidewalk

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

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

postbox /ˈpoʊstˌbɑks/ noun [C] *British* a mailbox

purchase¹ /ˈpɜrtʃəs/ verb [T] *formal* to buy something

refrain /rɪˈfreɪn/ verb [I] *formal* to stop yourself from doing something

rubbish bin /ˈrʌbɪʃ ˌbɪn/ noun [C] *British* trash can

sweets /swits/ noun [C] *British* candy

Underground, the /ˈʌndərˌgraʊnd/ noun [singular] *British* the subway

From the *Macmillan Essential Dictionary for Learners of American English.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS