



INTERACTIVE WORKSHEET

READING AND GRAMMAR

GRADE : 4th High School

AREA : ENGLISH

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 American and British English.

From the 17th century people began traveling 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 U.S. 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 movies or "films" at the movie theater. 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 U.S. A British English speaker may find it funny to think of someone "driving a stick." In the U.K., you fill a car with "petrol" but in the U.S. it's called "gas." A "crosswalk" in the U.S. is known as a "zebra crossing" in the U.K. Regarding food there are also several differences. For example a "cookie" in the U.S. is a "biscuit" in the U.K. Fried potatoes are "chips" in British English and "fries" in America. If you are British and you ask for "chips" in the U.S., you'll get some potato chips, or "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



INTERACTIVE WORKSHEET

Reading and Grammar



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

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

GRAMMAR : *Present simple vs Present progressive*

I. CHOOSE THE BEST SENTENCE FOR THE SITUATION.

- 1a) I'm in the bathroom! I wash my hair.
- 1b) I'm in the bathroom! I'm washing my hair.
- 2a) This Maths problem is difficult. Do you know the answer?
- 2b) This Maths problem is difficult. Are you knowing the answer?
- 3a) Do you wait for the school bus? You're in the wrong place!
- 3b) Are you waiting for the school bus? You're in the wrong place!
- 4a) Look at that bike! It costs S/ 350.
- 4b) Look at that bike! It is costing S/ 350.





GRAMMAR :

Present simple vs Present progressive

5a) Do you understand this exercise?

5b) Are you understanding this exercise?

II. CHOOSE THE CORRECT VERB FORM.

1) They usually _____ the ten o'clock bus.

- a) go b) are going c) goes

2) What is he doing? He _____ at his desk.

- a) sits b) is sitting c) sit

3) I always _____ to my office early.

- a) goes b) am going c) go

4) At this moment I _____ my students' exercises.

- a) 'm correcting b) correct c) corrects

5) William _____ to our workshop on Mondays.

- a) come b) comes c) is coming

6) Steven _____ a cigarette now.

- a) smokes b) is smoking c) smoke

7) Where are you? I _____ my lessons in the study.

- a) prepares b) preparing c) 'm preparing

8) The telephone often _____ during supper.

- a) is ringing b) ring c) rings



