

British and American English – the same, but different

British and American people speak the same language, English, but with some small differences.

1 Vocabulary Some words are different in American English, for example, they say *ZIP code*, not *postcode*; *vacation*, not *holiday*; and *cell phone*, not *mobile phone*. Some words have different meanings, for example, in British English a *purse* is a thing where women have their money and credit cards. In American English a *purse* is a woman's bag.

2 _____ Colour, favour, and other words that end in -our in British English end in -or in American English. *Centre*, *theatre*, and other words that end in -tre in British English end in -ter in American English.

3 _____ There are some small differences, especially prepositions. For example, Americans say *See you Friday*, but British people say *See you on Friday*.

4 _____ This is the really important difference between American and British English. American accents and British accents are very different. When an American starts speaking, British people know he or she is American, and vice versa.

a Read the article once. Complete it with the headings.

Grammar Pronunciation Spelling Vocabulary

b  **2.12** Listen and read the article again. Check your answers to **a**.

c Mark the sentences **T** (true) or **F** (false).

- 1 American English and British English are very different.
- 2 *Holiday* and *postcode* are the same in British and American English.
- 3 *Purse* has a different meaning in American and British English.
- 4 *Kilometer* is the British spelling.
- 5 British and American grammar are not very different.
- 6 It's difficult to know if a person is English or American from their accent.