

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BRITISH AND AMERICAN ENGLISH

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**Annotation:** *The present article lists some of the differences between British and American English by providing thorough explanation with examples.*

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Even though American and British English are similar but still they have differences that should be taken into consideration while speaking, reading or writing on both languages. That is why knowing their dissimilarities will be beneficial when you are either in America or England.

Overall, there are 3 main varieties between British and American English. First one is pronunciation which is one of the things that separate British from American English. Britons tend to pronounce precisely putting stress on each word while Americans “swallow” most of the sounds. The second one is in its vocabulary as there are some words that give the same meaning in both language but they are written differently.

For instance:

British English	American English
bonnet (the front of the car)	hood
boot (the back of the car)	trunk
jumper	sweater
fizzy drink    soda	
chemist	drugstore
chips	French fries
biscuit        cookie	
holiday	vacation
university	college

Another dissimilarity can be noticed in its spelling. Americans prone to shorter the number of letters in a word while in Britain it is opposite.

For instance:

British English	American English
-ou (favourite, mould)	-o (favorite, mold)
-oe-/-ae- (anaemia, encyclopaedia)	-e-(anemia, encyclopedia)

-ogue (catalogue, analogue)  
-ell- (jeweller, cancelled)

-og-(catalog, analog)  
-el- (jeweler, canceled)

There are cases when “s” is used in British English whereas “z” is common among American English:

British English  
-ise (surprise, organise)

American English  
-ize (surprize, organize)

However, more letters can be added to words in American English as well:

British English  
-l-( skilful, enrol, fulfil)  
-t-( leapt, dreamt, burnt)

American English  
-ll- (skillfull, enroll, fulfill)  
-ed- (leaped, dreamed, burned)

There are other spelling rules that should be kept in mind:

British English  
-y- (tyre)  
-re- (fibre, metre)  
-ence- (licence, offence)

American English  
-i- (tire)  
-er- (fiber, meter)  
-ense- (license, offense)

Apart from these, American and British English vary in terms of grammar. If past participle of “get” is “got” in British it is “gotten” in American one. For instance:

I have got much better at writing an essay (Br.Eng.)

I have gotten much better at writing an essay (Am.Eng)

Moreover, Britons still use formal way of speaking using “shall” while Americans say “will” or “should”. Last but not least to express possession “have got” is used in British language while “have” in American.

For example: Have you got a ticket to America? (Br.English)

Do you have a ticket to America? (Am.English)

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