BRITISH AND AMERICAN ENGLISH  
Vocabulary

Look at the two lists of word below and find:

1. Words which appear in both columns but with a different meaning
2. Words which are the same but have different spelling

| **British English ↕** | **American English ↕** |
| --- | --- |
| anti-clockwise | counter-clockwise |
| autumn | autumn, fall |
| barrister | attorney |
| bill *(restaurant)* | bill, check |
| biscuit | cookie |
| block of flats | apartment building |
| car park | parking lot |
| caravan | trailer |
| chemist's shop | drugstore, pharmacy |
| chips | fries, French fries |
| cinema, the | movies, the |
| crisps | potato chips |
| drink-driving | drunk driving |
| driving licence | driver's license |
| dual carriageway | divided highway |
| dummy *(for baby)* | pacifier |
| dustbin | garbage can, trash can |
| dustman | garbage collector |
| engine | engine, motor |
| estate agent | real estate agent |
| film | film, movie |
| flat | apartment, flat, studio |
| flat tyre | flat tire |
| flyover | overpass |
| Girl Guide | Girl Scout |
| handbag | handbag, purse, shoulder bag |
| high street | main street |
| holiday | vacation |
| lift | elevator |
| lorry | truck, semi, tractor |
| mad | crazy, insane |
| main road | highway |
| maize | corn |
| maths | math |
| motorbike | motorcycle |
| motorway | freeway, expressway |
| nappy | diaper |
| pants, underpants | underpants, drawers |
| pavement | sidewalk |
| petrol | gas, gasoline |
| pocket money | allowance |
| post | mail |
| postbox | mailbox |
| postcode | zip code |
| postman | mailman, mail carrier, letter carrier |
| pub | bar |
| public toilet | rest room, public bathroom |
| return *(ticket)* | round-trip |
| rubber | eraser |
| rubbish | garbage, trash |
| rubbish-bin | garbage can, trashcan |
| shop | shop, store |
| single *(ticket)* | one-way |
| solicitor | lawyer, attorney |
| sweets | candy |
| taxi | taxi, taxi cab |
| telly *(informal)*, TV | television, TV |
| timetable | schedule |
| tin | can |
| torch | flashlight |
| trousers | pants, trousers |
| tube *(train)* | subway |
| underground *(train)* | subway |
| wellington boots | rubber boots, rain boots |
| whisky | whisky/whiskey |
| windscreen | windshield |
| zip | zipper |

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Teachers’ Notes

These activities have been designed to be used before the workshops as introduction and a way of getting students interested and a way to pre-teach vocabulary.

You may also use the material as a follow up activity after the students have attended the event and see how much they remember!

Before you give the students the list and the task, ask them to write down any British and any American English words they know.

After you have completed the exercise with the students, ask them to stand at the front of the room. Read selected words from both lists. Students should remember if this is British or American English. If it’s British English, they walk to the right. If it’s American English, they move to the left. If your class is big, ask 7 students to come to the front (10 words), and then another group (10 words) etc.