

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 (<i>restaurant</i>)	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 (<i>for baby</i>)	pacifier
dustbin	garbage can, trash can
dustman	garbage collector
engine	engine, motor
estate agent	real estate agent



British English ↓	American English ↓
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

British English ↓	American English ↓
pub	bar
public toilet	rest room, public bathroom
return (<i>ticket</i>)	round-trip
rubber	eraser
rubbish	garbage, trash
rubbish-bin	garbage can, trashcan
shop	shop, store
single (<i>ticket</i>)	one-way
solicitor	lawyer, attorney
sweets	candy
taxi	taxi, taxi cab
telly (<i>informal</i>), TV	television, TV
timetable	schedule
tin	can
torch	flashlight
trousers	pants, trousers
tube (<i>train</i>)	subway
underground (<i>train</i>)	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.