

Name _____

Class _____ / _____

British English vs. American English

*Example: In the UK, you play **football**; in the US, you play soccer.*

1. In the UK, you eat **biscuits**; in the US, you eat _____.
2. In the UK, you buy a **return** ticket; in the US, you buy a _____.
3. In the UK, you take a **lift**; in the US, you take an _____.
4. In the UK, you go to the **cinema**; in the US, you go to the _____.
5. In the UK, you wear **trousers**; in the US, you wear _____.
6. In the UK, you go on **holiday**; in the US, you go on _____.
7. In the UK, you wait in a **queue**; in the US, you wait in a _____.
8. In the UK, you put **petrol** in your car; in the US, you put _____ in your car.
9. In the UK, you drive a **lorry**; in the US, you drive a _____.
10. In the UK, the third season is **autumn**; in the US, the third season is _____.
11. In the UK, you wear a **jumper**; in the US, you wear a _____.
12. In the UK, you eat **sweets**; in the US, you eat _____.
13. In the UK, you live in a **flat**; in the US, you live in an _____.
14. In the UK, you live with a **flat mate**; in the US, you live with a _____.
15. In the UK, you eat **chips**; in the US, you eat _____.
16. In the UK, you eat **crisps**; in the US, you eat _____.
17. In the UK, you throw away **rubbish**; in the US, you throw away _____.
18. In the UK, you throw rubbish in the **dustbin**; in the US, you throw garbage in the _____.
19. In the UK, the back of a car is the **boot**; in the US, the back of a car is the _____.
20. In the UK, the front of a car is the **bonnet**; in the US, the front of a car is the _____.

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21. In the US the **Principal** is in charge of a school, in the UK it is the _____.
22. In the US a mechanic would use a **wrench** to tighten a bolt, in the UK a _____.
23. In the US you would go to the **movie-house** to watch a **movie**, in the UK you would go to the _____ to watch a _____.
24. In the US bedroom your clothes would be kept in the **closet**, in the UK a _____.
25. In the US you drive a **truck**, in the UK you drive a _____.
26. In the US **suspenders** keep up your **pants**, in the UK _____ keep up your _____.
27. In the US a baby would suck on a **pacifier** to keep it quiet, in the UK a _____.
28. In the US a baby would wear a **diaper**, in the UK a _____.
29. In the US you would have **jelly** on your bread, in the UK you would have _____.
30. In the US your address has a **zip code**, in the UK your address has _____.
31. In the US you use **scotch tape**, in the UK you use _____.
32. In the US you turn on the **faucet** for water, in the UK you turn on the _____.
33. In the US you put on your **sneakers** to go jogging, in the UK you put on your _____.
34. In the US you would eat **cotton-candy**, in the UK you would eat _____.
35. In the US you use **plastic wrap**, in the UK you use _____.
36. In the US if you cut yourself you would use a **band-aid**, in the UK a _____.
37. In the US if you are not charged for a telephone call it is **toll-free**, in the UK it is _____.
38. In the US a prison is a **gaol**, in the UK a prison is a _____.
39. In the US a **proctor** watches the students during an exam, in the UK it is an _____.
40. In the US your letters and parcels are delivered by the **mailman**, in the UK it is the _____.

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Answers:

1.cookies 2. roundtrip 3. elevator 4. movies 5. pants 6. vacation 7. line 8. gas 9. truck 10. fall 11. sweater 12. candy 13. apartment 14. roommate 15. fries 16. chips 17. garbage 18. trashcan 19. trunk 20. hood

21.headmaster 22. spanner 23. cinema/film 24. wardrobe 25. lorry 26. braces/trousers 27. dummy 28. nappy 29. jam 30. postcode 31. selotape 32. tap 33. trainers 34. candy-floss 35. cling-film 36. plaster 37. free-phone 38. jail 39. invigilator 40. postman

Differences between American and British English



though	chips	course	pavement	
legs	sidewalk	elevator	confusing	fizzy

Hey! Nice pants! Excuse me? I said nice pants.

You can't see my pants, can you? Of _____ I can.

How can you see my pants? They're on your _____!

You haven't been to America recently, have you? Well, I have actually.

I've just got back from LA. That's Los Angeles, by the way. I know.

Yeah, I picked up some of the American words

and now I forget which ones to use!

So _____! Well, we call these trousers in Britain.

Of course we do.

You know, there are so many things _____

it's like a completely different language sometimes.

Really? Yeah! Would you like a crisp?

Crisps? In the States, they're _____!

Oh. So, if I want to order our chips in America, what do I ask for?

French fries! I see.

And you know what that is, don't you?

A _____ drink. That's a soda!

You know the lift over there? Yeah?

That's an _____. Oh, really?

You know, in the States, you don't go to watch a film.

You watch a movie!

Exactly! And you don't walk on the _____.

You walk on the _____! You got it!

I've watched a lot of films. Oops, movies.

.....

Brainstorm: What are some other differences between American and British English?

American English

British English

Do you have?

Have you got?

British versus American English

American English	Your Language	British English
hood		
license plate		
		queue
one-way ticket		
restroom		
pack of cards		
faucet		
		wash your hands
		dummy
eraser		
		aerial
band - aid		
check		bill
		dressing gown
		chest of drawers
		caretaker
cookie		
		waistcoat
drapes		

		motorway
truck		van, lorry
		wardrobe
		nappy
kerosene		
apartment		
		petrol
automobile		
cab		
		tin
candy		
crazy		
		lift
drug-store		chemist('s)
fall		
first floor		
		rubbish
garbage can		
		main road
		post
math		

movies		the cinema
pants		
		boot
flashlight		
		wallet
potato chips		
		railway
round trip		
schedule		
		sunglasses
sidewalk		
		shop
stove		
subway		
vacation		

What differences can you find between American and British Spelling?

American English	British English
color	
	humour
	theatre
kilometer	
mom	
defense	
	cosy
dialog	
traveler	
check	cheque
	jewellery
tire	
realize	
	favourite

American vs British English

1. Match the British words on the left with the American Words on the right.

Use a dictionary where necessary.



BrE

- A. luggage
- B. nappy
- C. rubbish
- D. holiday
- E. sweets
- F. chips
- G. lorry
- H. timetable
- I. cooker
- J. Hoover

AmE

- 1. candies
- 2. Schedule
- 3. French fries
- 4. stove
- 5. diaper
- 6. baggage
- 7. vacuum
- 8. garbage
- 9. vacation
- 10. truck



Read the following sentences and identify whether the word in **bold** is British or American English. Then indicate the corresponding word in BrE or in AmE.

- a) Where's your **flat** in London? _____
- b) She needs a **flash light** to go to the attic. _____
- c) When I approached the bus stop I saw a long **line** of people _____
- d) You shouldn't ride your bike on the **sidewalk**. _____
- e) Doreen lives on the 7th floor. Let's take the **lift**. _____
- f) Waiter, can I have the **check**, please? _____
- g) David always wears jeans and **trainers** everywhere he goes. _____

Answer key:

1

A-6; B-5; C-8; D-9; E-1; F-3; G-10; H-2; I-4; J-7;

2.


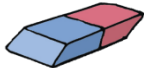





- a) BrE- flat, AmE - apartment
- b) AmE- flash light, BrE- torch
- c) AmE- line, BrE- queue
- d) AmE- sidewalk, BrE-pavement
- e) BrE- lift, AmE elevator
- f) AmE- check, BrE- bill
- g) BrE - trainers, AmE - sneakers








British English	American English
anti-clockwise	counter-clockwise
autumn	fall
boot (of a car)	trunk
chips	fries or French fries
crisps	potato chips
dustbin or bin	garbage can or trash can
film	movie (or film)
flat (to live in)	apartment
garden	yard
holiday	vacation
lift	elevator
motorway	freeway or expressway
nappy	diaper
pavement	sidewalk
petrol	gas or gasoline
postcode	zip code
queue	line
sweets	candy
torch	flashlight
trousers	pants (or trousers)
tube or underground	subway
zip	zipper

The British and the Americans both speak English but they don't always use the same words.

Activity 1 → Match these American words with the pictures.

a trunk / an eraser / a hood / an egg-plant / a movie theatre / cotton candy / subway
a can / a truck / restrooms / a trash can / an elevator / trash / French fries

	British English	American English
	chips	
	a rubber	
	a lorry	
	a cinema	
	a tin	
	public toilets	
	underground	

	British English	American English
	an aubergine	
	a bin	
	rubbish	
	the boot	
	the bonnet	
	candy floss	
	a lift	

Activity 2 → Match the British words with the American words. Mind the odd-one-out !





















GB





















- pudding •
- flat •
- post •
- torch •
- car park •
- postman •

US

- mail
- store
- mailman
- parking lot
- flashlight
- dessert
- apartment

Activity 3 → Is the word English or American ? Tick the correct flag.

Mom	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Mum	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
cookies	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
biscuits	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
mobile phone	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
cellphone	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
police car	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
patrol car	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
mustache	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
moustache	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

petrol	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
gas	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
fizzy drink	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
soda	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
pajamas	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
pyjamas	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
post code	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
zip code	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
crisps	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	
potato chips	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

Activity 4 → Paraphrase the British sentences using the American words below.

the faucet / movie / suspenders / after / candies / bathroom / do the dishes / Fall / kids
 the check / sneakers / the highway / vacation / the sidewalk / line / the shopping mall

It is the best *film* I have ever seen.

→ _____

On October 31st, it's Halloween. *Children* get a lot of *sweets* when they say "trick or treat".

→ _____

I have drunk so much water, I really need to go to the *toilet*.

→ _____

There are lots of *lorries* on the *motorway* today.

→ _____

There is a long *queue* of people waiting at the bus stop.

→ _____

White *trainers* are fashionable this summer.

→ _____

It's ten *past* two. → _____

My grandfather used to wear striped *braces* to keep his baggy trousers up.

→ _____

I am on *holiday* for a week and I will return to work next Monday.

→ _____

I'm going to *the shopping centre*, do you want to come with me ?

→ _____

You mustn't ride your bike on *the pavement* !

→ _____

I *do the washing-up* every day after dinner.

→ _____

Waiter ! Could you please bring me *the bill* ?

→ _____

Autumn is my *favourite* season.

→ _____

Turn off *the tap* when you clean your teeth.

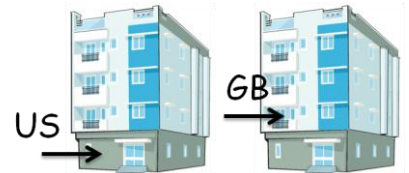
→ _____



Activity 5 → British words can sometimes be really different from American words.

Read these American words. What do they mean in GB ? What do they mean in the US ? Write GB or US next to the correct picture. Look at the example first.

the first floor



to wash up



a lavatory



chips



pants



football



a vest



jelly



a purse

