

What are the differences between British English and American English?

There are many British words which are different to American words.

For example:

- A lorry is a slimmer truck.
- A lift is an elevator.
- A fortnight is two weeks.
- A chemist is a person who works in a drugstore.
- A dual carriageway is a freeway.

Lisa and Sofia Efthymiou, an American mum and daughter, have listed below a few of the differences between British and American words.

We have arranged the words in categories to make viewing easier for school work.

British and American Vocabulary	
<u>Clothes</u>	<u>Parts of a Car</u>
<u>At School</u>	<u>In and around the House</u>
<u>On the Road</u>	<u>People</u>
<u>Buildings / Shops</u>	<u>Sport</u>
<u>Let's Eat!</u>	<u>Other Words</u>

Clothes

In the UK, we would be embarrassed if people saw our **pants**. why?

British English	American English
Trousers	Pants
Pants / Underwear / Knickers	Underwear / panties
Jumper / Pullover / Sweater / Jersey	Sweater
Pinafore Dress	Jumper

Vest	Undershirt
Waistcoat	Vest
Wellington Boots / Wellies	Galoshes
Mac (slang for Macintosh)	Rain Coat
Plimsolls	Gym Shoes
Trainers	Sneakers
Braces	Suspenders
Suspenders	Holds up stockings
Dressing Gown	Robe
Nappy	Diaper
Pinny / Apron	Apron
Polo Neck	Turtle Neck
Dressing Gown	Bath Robe
Swimming costume / Cozzy	Bathing Suit

At School

"**Stop mucking around** and get on with your work,"
shouted the teacher to two students who were off task.

British English	American English
Friend / Mate	Friend
Rubber	Eraser
Maths	Math
Public School	Private School
State School	Public School
Holiday	Vacation
School dinner	Hot Lunch

Staff Room	Teachers Lounge
Plimsolls	Gym Shoes
"Mucking Around" / Off Task	Off Task / Fooling Around "Goofing Off"
Play Time / Break Time	Recess
Open Day / Open Evening	Open House
Marking Scheme	Grading Scheme
Drawing pins	pushpins or thumbtacks

On the Road

In the UK, we drive slowly over **sleeping policemen**.
Are we afraid of waking them up?

British English	American English
Sleeping Policeman /speed bump	Speed bump
Car park	Parking Lot
Car Journey / drive	Road Trip
Zebra Crossing / Pedestrian Crossing	Cross Walk
Lollipop Man or	Crossing Guard
Motorway	Freeway
Traffic Jam / Tailback	Traffic Jam
Lorry	Truck
Articulated Lorry	Tractor Trailer / Trailer Truck
Petrol	Gas / Gasoline
Pavement	Sidewalk
Petrol Station	Gas Station

Skip	Dumpster
Diversion	Detour
Fire Engine	Fire Truck
Phone Box	Telephone Booth

Buildings / Shops

British English	American English
Semi-Detached House	Duplex
Flat (one storey) apartment	Apartment
Terrace (row of houses joined)	Town House
Chemist	Drug Store / Druggist
Cafe / Caff (not 24 hrs)	Diner
Bungalow	House (one story) Ranch House

Food

What's for **afters**? Have you had your **pudding** yet?

Are you feeling **peckish** (hungry)?

That food looks very **scrummy** (delicious)

British English	American English
Biscuit / Bickie (A cookie is a large biscuit)	Cookie
Scone	Biscuit
Fairy Cake	Cup Cake
Courgette	Zucchini
Sweets	Candy

Sausage / Banger	Sausage
Crisps	Chips
Chips (French Fries in McDonald's)	French Fries
Starter	Appetizer
Puddings / Afters / Dessert / Sweets	Dessert
Jacket Potato / Baked Potato	Baked Potato
Jam	Jelly or Jam
Jelly (a dessert in th UK)	Jell-o (flavoured gelatin)
Aubergine	Eggplant
Sandwich / Butty / Sarny	Sandwich
Ice lolly	Popsicle
Bill (at restaurant)	check
Grill (oven grill)	Broil (oven broil)
Food / Grub / Nosh	Food
Rasher	A slice of bacon
Eggy bread (fried)	French Toast
Runner beans	Green beans
Soldiers (We dip soldiers in our soft boiled eggs)	Finger sized slices of toast.
Take-away	Take out
<p>Flapjacks in England are oats mixed with honey and/or golden syrup and baked then cut into slices. sometimes raisins are added to the mixture.</p>	

Parts of a Car

British English	American English
Bonnet	Hood
Windscreen	Windshield
Boot	Trunk
Reversing lights	Back-up lights
Exhaust pipe	Tail pipe / Muffler

In and around the House

I watch the **telly** whilst lying on the **settee**.

Whilst is used in British English. It is another word for while

British English	American English
The Toilet / Loo / The John Bog / WC / Visiting the little boys (little girl's room).	Bathroom / Restroom
Bathroom - the room where the bath is. If you asked us for the bathroom we will think you want to have a bath!	
Tap	Faucet
Garden	Backyard / Yard
Wardrobe	Closet
Bin / Dust Bin	Trash Can
Telephone / Blower / Phone	Telephone
Television / Box / Telly/ TV	TV / Television
Cooker	Range or Stove
Couch / Sofa / Settee	Sofa
Hand Basin / Sink	Sink
Run the bath	Fill the tub

People

British English	American English
Girl / Lass	Girl
Boy / Lad	Boy
Man / Bloke / Gentleman / Guy / Chap	Man / Guy
Lady / Woman	Lady
Policeman / Bobby / Copper	Policeman / Cop
Postman	Mailman
Dustman	Garbage Man
Friend / Pal / Chum / Mate / Buddy	Friend / Buddy
Cashier	Teller
Lollypop Man	Crossing Guard
Nutter	Crazy Person
Mum / Mummy / Mom	Mom

Sport

British English	American English
Football	Soccer
Rounders	Baseball
Bat (table tennis)	Paddle (ping pong)

Other Words

British English	American English
Torch	Flashlight
Plaster	Band-Aid
Autumn	Fall
Bank Holiday	National Holiday
Lift	Elevator
Queue There's a queue.	Stand in a Line There's a line.
Quid (slang for pound)	Bucks
Surgery	Doctor's office
Trodden on	Stepped on
I'm knackered	I'm Beat
Kip / sleep	sleep
Nick	steal
Wireless / Radio	Radio
Starkers / naked	Naked
Come round	Come over
Off you go	Go ahead
It's gone off	It's spoiled
Lady bird	Lady bug