



British and American English



1. Here are two lists of American English and British English words.

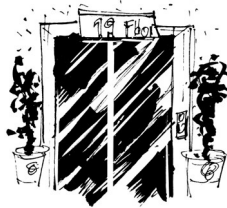
Match the American word with the British words and the right picture. The first one is done for you.

American English: pants, French fries, chips, parking lot, elevator, soda, buddy, drugstore, soccer, trash can

British English: lift, bin, chemist, fizzy drink, football, chips, car park, trousers, crisps, friend



buddy (AE)
friend (BE)



Americans don't just use different words to the British, but they spell words differently too. Here you are going to learn some of the differences.



There are some rules you can follow:

Rule #1

Can you work out the rule? Complete the gaps in the table and the sentence below.

British English	American English
colour	color
neighbour	
	labor

Words which end in _____ in British English often end in _____ in American English.

Rule #2

Can you work out the rule? Complete the gaps in the table and the sentence below.

British English	American English
centre	
theatre	theater
	liter

Words which end in _____ in British English often end in _____ in American English.

However, there aren't always rules to follow. Here are some more examples of words which are spelled differently in British and American English.



British English	American English
programme	program
grey	gray
pyjamas	pajamas
mum	mom

2. Look at the sentences below. Some words are American English and some are British English. Correct the sentences to make them all either British OR American.

- Hey, mom said we shouldn't eat up all the crisps and drink up all the soda!

- Tickets to the theatre are often expensive. I prefer watching movies.

- I think I've got the flu. Mum has gone to the drugstore to buy some medicine.

- Our flat is on the fifth floor. Let's get the elevator.

- He loves playing football – he's a goalkeeper, you know. And he plays every evening after school with his buddies.



British and American English



1. Here are two lists of American English and British English words.

Match the American word with the British words and the right picture. The first one is done for you.

American English: pants, French fries, chips, parking lot, elevator, soda, buddy, drugstore, soccer, trash can

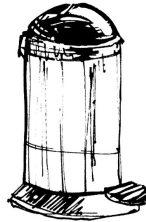
British English: lift, bin, pharmacy, fizzy drink, football, chips, car park, trousers, crisps, friend



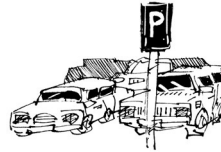
buddy (AE)
friend (BE)



drugstore
pharmacy



trash can
bin



parking lot
car park



soccer
football



soda
fizzy drink



elevator
lift



pants
trousers



french fries
chips



chips
crisps

Americans don't just use different words to the British, but they spell words differently too. Here you are going to learn some of the differences.



There are some rules you can follow:

Rule #1

Can you work out the rule? Complete the gaps in the table and the sentence below.

British English	American English
colour	color
neighbour	
	labor

Words which end in **-our** in British English often end in **-or** in American English.

Rule #2

Can you work out the rule? Complete the gaps in the table and the sentence below.

British English	American English
centre	center
theatre	theater
litre	liter

Words which end in **-re** in British English often end in **-er** in American English.

However, there aren't always rules to follow. Here are some more examples of words which are spelled differently in British and American English.



British English	American English
programme	program
grey	gray
pyjamas	pajamas
mum	mom
flat	apartment

2. Look at the sentences below. Some words are American English and some are British English. Correct the sentences to make them all either British OR American.

- Hey, mom said we shouldn't eat up all the crisps and drink up all the soda!
Hey, mum/mom said we shouldn't eat up all the crisps/chips and drink up all the fizzy drinks/soda.
- Tickets to the theatre are often expensive. I prefer watching movies.
Tickets to the theatre/theater are often expensive. I prefer watching films/movies.
- I think I've got the flu. Mum has gone to the drugstore to buy some medicine.
I think I've got the flu. Mum/Mom has gone to the pharmacy/drugstore to buy some medicine.
- Our flat is on the fifth floor. Let's get the elevator.
Our flat/apartment is on the fifth floor. Let's get the elevator/lift.
- He loves playing football – he's a goalkeeper, you know. And he plays every evening after school with his buddies.
He loves playing football/soccer – he's a goalkeeper, you know. And he plays every evening after school with his friends/buddies.