

E-SESSION 4



American English vis-à-vis British English

Working in a call center is a specialised job that requires an indepth knowledge of the English language, particularly American English. Most of us are generally aware of the traditional British Language. This session will help you to acquaint yourself with the current trends in American English.

SESSION Objectives

In this session, you will learn:

- How American English differs from British English
- What particular words are common in call centres
- To develop skills in American English

In this session, you will be given a set of Workouts. Read these and then attempt the Exercise that follows each Workout.

Notation used

- **Can** These usages are confined to Canada. In general Canadian English is more similar to American English than British English. Where Canadian usage is the same as British usage as distinct from American usage this is indicated.
- **US** These usages are confined to the USA and are not known in Canada or the UK.
- **?** The meaning of the American usage is not fully established; further information will be welcome.
- **AE** American English
- **BE** British English **CE** Canadian English

Generally, in American English *-or* as a word ending is equivalent to *-our* in British English, American *-er* as a word ending is sometimes equivalent to *-re* in British English. In American English the final *e* is removed from verbs before adding *-ing*, in orthodox British English this is not done, giving “routeing” (British) and “routing” (American). However, the American practice of dropping the “e” is becoming quite common in British English. American English tends to prefer *-ize* and *-ization* whereas British English prefers *-ise* and *-isation*.

The Canadian spelling is a sort of intermediate between the British and American (US) forms but is generally closer to British practice. However, there are variations from province to province. For example, in Canada words like “aluminium”, “gauge”, “jewellery” and “mould” are preferred.

There are, of course, exceptions to the above rules. American usage is “glamour” not “glamor” and “advertising” not “advertizing”. British usage has “honorary” and “honorific” without the “u”. It has also been noted that the British usages “centre” and “theatre” are displacing the American usages, particularly where the establishment in question wants to suggest that it is of superior quality.

When spelling out words (and ‘phone numbers) it is British practice to say things such as “double e” for “ee” and “treble 3” for “333”.

Also “tonne” is **not** a British spelling of “ton” but a quite separate metric unit equal to 1000 kg as distinct from the British ton of 2240 lbs (= 1016.96 kg).

There are quite widespread regional variations in both the US and Canada.

The second part of the list in the workouts shows common differences in usage. i.e. those cases where different words are used to describe the same thing. The primary purpose of this is to help distinguish American usages that would be unfamiliar to speakers of British English.

WORKOUT 1

20 minutes

Study the following words to understand the difference between American and British spellings:

American	British	Notes
aluminum analog anesthesia archeology boro	aluminium analogue anaesthesia archaeology borough	"boro" is informal and is sometimes seen in British road markings.
bylaw catalog center color curb	bye law catalogue centre colour kerb	
defense dialog donut	defence dialogue doughnut	Edge of roadway or pavement. "curb" in the sense of "restrain" is used in British and American English.
draft encyclopedia favorite	draught encyclopaedia favourite	"donut" is informal and is quite commonly used in BE to suggest that the bun is of a typical American character.
gage gray gynecology	gauge grey gynaecology	American usage may be obsolescent

EXERCISE 1

10 minutes

Write the American spelling of the following:

- Analogue : _____
- Bye Law: _____
- Kerb: _____
- Draught: _____
- Doughnut : _____
- Gauge : _____
- Grey: _____
- Gynaecology: _____

WORKOUT 2

20 minutes

Study the following words to understand the difference between American and British spellings:

American	British	Notes
hauler	haulier	
honor	honour	
humor	humour	
jewelry	jewellery	
license	licence	British usage is license for the verb and licence for the noun
maneuver	manoeuvre	
meter	metre	British usage is "meter" for a measuring device and "metre" for the unit of length
mold	mould	
mustache	moustache	
nite	night	"nite" is used informally in both AE and BE.
omelet	omelette	
pajamas (US)	pyjamas	
practice	practise	British usage is "practise" for the verb and "practice" for the noun
program	programme	British usage is "program" for computers and "programme" for television or radio.
routing	routeing	
specialty	speciality	
story	storey	Of building
sulfur	sulphur	According to a correspondent, the American spelling is now "official" British spelling for use by professional chemists but it is unlikely to be recognised by any other British English speaker.
thru	through	American usage is obsolescent but may still be seen on road signs etc.
tire	tyre	part of wheel in contact with road
vise	vice	tool

EXERCISE 2

10 minutes

Write the American spelling of the following:

- Jewellery : _____
- Manoeuvre: _____
- Moustache: _____
- Night: _____
- Practise : _____
- Routing: _____
- Storey: _____
- Tyre: _____

WORKOUT 3

20 minutes

Study the following words to understand the difference between American and British spellings:

American	British	Notes
airplane AM	aeroplane Medium Wave	Radio stations broadcasting using amplitude modulation on frequencies in the range 555-1600 kHz. In Europe (and the UK) the actual frequency range is 531 to 1611 kHz with 9 KHz channel spacing. Stations do not have distinctive callsigns. There are (in the UK) a number of national stations (not all operated by the BBC) that can be heard anywhere in the country.
antenna	aerial	Electronics. It is suggested that AE uses "aerial" for rod type antennae such as the "rabbit ears" sometimes used with TV sets.
apartment	flat	A flat occupying more than one floor is called a "maisonette" in BE. <i>See</i> condominium. CE uses "flat" to refer to accommodation with some shared facilities.
area code	dialling code	Telephone. The obsolescent phrase STD (Subscriber Trunk Dialling) code may be encountered.
asphalt	Tarmac	The BE term is proprietary. A composite of bitumen (a tarry substance) and gravel used for surfacing/paving roads etc. In American usage "tarmac" is used to refer to surface of airport runways etc. A macadamised road is one with a surface of carefully graded stones first devised by John Macadam in the early 19th century. "Tarmacadam" refers to the same form of road construction with a final layer of a tarry substance designed partially to prevent vehicles throwing up dust and small stones and partially to prevent rainwater seeping into the road structure. According to a correspondent oil men use "asphalt" to refer to something found down an oil well.
attached home	semi-detached house	Two dwellings sharing a single common wall.
attorney	lawyer	<i>See</i> lawyer.
auto, automobile	car	The word "auto" is still common in notices and road signs. The American usages would sound strange to British ears.

American	British	Notes
automatic teller machine (ATM)	cashpoint	A "hole in the wall" machine from which you can get money.
baby carriage	pram, perambulator	The word "perambulator" is very pompous. This is a substantial crib or cot-like container kept well clear of the ground on large wheels.
backpack/rucksack	backbag	Carrier for camping equipment etc., usually with a metal frame, worn on the back.
back-up light	reversing light	
baking soda	bicarbonate of soda	Sodium bicarbonate (NaHCO_3) used in cooking.

EXERCISE 3

10 minutes

Write the American spelling of the following:

- Medium Wave: _____
- Flat: _____
- Tarmac: _____
- Semi-detached: _____
- Lawyer: _____
- Cash point: _____
- Pram: _____
- Bicarbonate of Soda: _____

WORKOUT 4

20 minutes

American	British	Notes
Band-Aid	sticking plaster	The AE term is proprietary. The words "bandage" referring to an "ad-hoc" wound dressing made of cloth, gauze etc., are common to AE and BE.
bandshell	bandstand	British bandstands do not have sound reflecting shields or enclosures and are just fenced, roofed and raised public parks.
bangs	fringe	Hair style. In BE a "fringe" is hair hanging straight down beneath the normal hair line and usually trimmed to a straight edge "bangs" refers to a fringe at the side with sharply swept forward ends.
bankroll bar	foot the bill pub, public house	An establishment where drinks can be purchased for consumption on the premises as distinct from an off-licence (BE) or liquor store (AE). In BE a "bar" is either a room within a public house, cafe, club, hotel etc., where drink is sold or the

American	British	Notes
		actual counter over which drinks are sold. Public houses often have several rooms with differing standards of furnishing and comfort and prices to match. In order of increasing facilities these are quite commonly called the "public bar", "saloon bar" and "lounge bar" although there are many variations. Public houses, although intended primarily to sell drink, often sell meals nowadays. Many public houses are "tied", which means they are actually owned by a brewery, and the landlord really is just a landlord. "Tied" houses give preference to the owner's brands although recent legislation and consumer pressure has made it much more likely that "guest" beers will be on offer. You may occasionally come across a "beer house" which is a public house only licensed to sell beer and similar drinks but not wines or spirits. <i>See</i> beer. The AE terms "tavern", "roadhouse" and "saloon" referring to various types of drinking establishment have no direct British equivalent.
barrette baseboard	hair slide skirting board	A plank fixed along bottom of wall. In BE a "baseboard" is a board on which something, such as a model railway layout, is built.
bathrobe bathroom	dressing gown toilet	Especially in a domestic context. In BE a bathroom is a room containing a bath in a private house or hotel. <i>See</i> "washroom".
bathtub battle stations beater <i>Can</i>	bath action stations (<i>US</i>) banger	Decrepit car. AE also has "klunker", "jalopy" and "junker".
beer	lager	The drink referred to as "beer" in American usage would not be recognised as such by many British drinkers. In British usage "beer" is a mildly alcoholic beverage served at a temperature that does not freeze your taste

American	British	Notes
bell pepper	red pepper green pepper	buds. "Real Ale" is beer prepared with the minimum of chemicals in a traditional fashion, usually in small local breweries. In BE lager is beer brewed using low temperature fermentation, it is typically lighter and clearer than normal beer and often served chilled. The word "lager" has some negative connotations being associated with drunken youths known as "lager louts". The word "ale" is slightly archaic and now means the same as "beer". The word "stout" describes a strong dark beer brewed with roasted malt or barley and particularly popular in Ireland (Guinness is the best known brand). <i>See bar.</i> Yellow ones are also available. A variety of capiscum. There is some evidence of US regional variations. CE has "red sweet pepper". Circular road. A road circling a city. There are various other regional and local North American names. In the sense of a piece of paper currency. British currency notes currently in general circulation are £5, £10, £20 and £50. The £5 and £10 notes are frequently called "fivers" and "tenners". The different notes are of different sizes, colours and general appearance which makes things a bit easier for the visually handicapped unlike the paper currency of a certain North American country.
beltway, loop	ring road,	
bill	note	

EXERCISE 4

10 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

1. Fringe: _____
2. Foot the bill: _____
3. Pub: _____
4. Dressing gown: _____
5. Bath: _____
6. Lager: _____
7. Ring road: _____
8. Note: _____

WORKOUT 5 20 minutes

American	British	Notes
billfold	wallet	The AE term is becoming obsolescent and being replaced by "wallet"
billion	thousand million	The old British usage in which a billion was a million ² is now largely obsolete and most British speakers would assume the American meaning. The usage continued: trillion = tri+(m)illion = million ³ = 10 ¹⁸ . quadrillion = quad+(m)illion = million ⁴ = 10 ²⁴ . centillion = cent+(m)illion = million ¹⁰⁰ = 10 ⁶⁰⁰ The American naming seems to work on the principle 10 ^{3+number×3}
biscuit	scone	
blacktop	Tarmac	See "asphalt" in a dictionary
blindlers	blinkers	
blinkers	indicators	Part of a car. See turn signals. In BE blinkers are used on horses to prevent them being distracted by things going on on either side.
blood sausage	black pudding	
bobby pin	hair grip, Kirby grip	"Kirby Grip" is proprietary.
boneyard	scrapyard, junkyard	Place where old machinery etc., gently rots away.
bouillon cube	stock cube	
boxcar	no equivalent	A covered railway wagon with a door for loading. British railways use either open trucks, wagons built for specific loads such as oil or, most commonly "container flats" which are flat trucks with no side panels adapted to carry the ubiquitous containers.
braid	plait	Hair style. British geographers would refer to "braid streams" and British electronic engineers would refer to "braided conductors".
brewpub	no equivalent	British usage would simply refer to a "pub that brewed its own beer" although the word "microbrewery" may sometimes be encountered in both BE and AE.

American**British****Notes**

Brit

Briton

"Britisher" sounds rather Germanic (especially in stereotypical WW2 films). "Briton" is not widely used. We are Englishmen, Scotsmen, Welshmen and Irishmen (and women!) and confusing them causes offence. The correct name of the country is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, often abbreviated to the United Kingdom. Great Britain is a large island off the North West coast of Europe, it includes the kingdoms of England and Scotland and the principality of Wales. England and Scotland share the same monarch but Wales has a prince of its own. Northern Ireland is just a province, don't confuse it with Ulster which includes the counties of Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal in the Irish republic. The Isle of Man and the Channel Islands (Jersey, Guernsey etc) are not legally part of the United Kingdom. The word "Brit" is rapidly coming into popular usage. The correct adjectives for things from Scotland are "Scottish" for most things, "Scots" for the people and a sort of pine tree and "Scotch" for the whisky.



EXERCISE 5

10 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

1. Thousand million: _____
2. Blinkers: _____
3. Black pudding: _____
4. Scrapyard: _____
5. Stock cube: _____
6. Plait: _____
7. Briton: _____

WORKOUT 6

20 minutes

American	British	Notes
brown bag	lunch	<i>no equivalent</i> Lunch obtained from supermarket or made at home and taken to work. In US practice supermarkets and grocery stores give/sell customers brown paper bags to take the groceries home in, in UK practice plastic bags, with handles, are used.
bureau	chest of drawers	A piece of furniture consisting of a number of wide shallow drawers one above another mainly used for storing clothes and linen. A correspondent has suggested that the US usage is regional. In BE "bureau" refers to a piece of furniture typically found in old-fashioned offices with both drawers and a fold-down writing surface.
burlap	hessian	coarse fabric used for sacking, bags and, sometimes, wall covering.
bus	coach	In British usage for journeys between towns and cities it's a coach, always single decker. Within towns and cities it's a bus, often double-decker.
busy signal	engaged tone	Telephone system.
caboose	guard's van	A caboose traditionally includes sleeping and messing facilities, a guard's van does not.
cadaver	corpse	A dead body. AE seems to increasingly reserve the word "cadaver" for medical and forensic use.
cafeteria	canteen	Place, especially in a factory, where meals are served. BE also has "canteen" for a small water bottle used by soldiers and campers and also for a collection of cutlery.
candy	sweet	The word "candy" refers to a particular crystallised sugar confection in British usage.
car	carriage	A railway vehicle for carrying passengers. On the road it's a "car" in both BE and AE.
caravan	convoy	Group of vehicles travelling together. The American usage "caravan" is rare/archaic. In BE a "caravan" is a mobile home or trailer. A correspondent has told me that American estate agents (Realtors) refer to groups of viewers of properties as "caravans".

American**British****Notes**

carnival

travelling
fair or circus

cart

trolley

cattle guard
cellular phonecattle grid
mobile phone

In British usage a carnival is a period of widespread public celebration often associated with street processions, this also applies in a few American cities such as New Orleans. A fair is travelling entertainment with sideshows and rides such as dodgems, ferris wheels, helter-skelters etc. A circus has seating round a ring (or several rings) where clowns and animals perform. The tent covering the ring of a circus is called the "big top".

Shopping. BE does not use the word "cart" in this context reserving it for a wheeled trailer pulled by a vehicle or horse.

cell phone,
Often just called "the mobile" in BE.

EXERCISE 6

10 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

1. Lunch: _____
2. Coach: _____
3. Corpse: _____
4. Canteen: _____
5. Carriage: _____
6. Trolley: _____

WORKOUT 7

20 minutes

American**British****Notes**check (*US*)

cheque

checkers
checking
accountdraughts
current
accountchesterfield
chicory
chief
executivesettee
endive
managing
director (MD)

Banking. Same pronunciation, different spelling. CE as BE.

Board game.

Banking. The American facility is technically called a "demand deposit account". It is called a "chequing account" in CE.

See couch.

American	British	Notes
officer (CEO)		Head of day to day operations of a commercial organisation. The American usage is creeping in in the UK.
chifforobe	gentleman's wardrobe	A wardrobe with hanging space on one side and drawers on the other.
chips	crisps	Thin fried slices of potato usually sold in bags as snacks or "nibbles".
city	town	In American usage "city" is used for any "incorporated" area, which seems to mean that it has some form of local government, as such the population may be only a few hundred. There are state-by-state regional variations in the precise meaning of the American term. In British usage an urban area is only a city if it has a cathedral or has a royal warrant saying it's a city. If it isn't a city it's a town (or a village), my own city, Wolverhampton, has a population of about 250,000, a bishop, a university a main-line railway station, trams and over a thousand years of history but it didn't become a city until December 2000.
closet	fitted wardrobe	Especially a walk-in wardrobe or small storage room that is a permanent fixture not a piece of furniture.
closing out	closing down	Sale of goods when shop or company ceases regular trading. AE also uses this to refer to stock clearance or particular lines of merchandise.
clothes pin coach	clothes peg economy	Holds washing on a line. Inexpensive class of accommodation on a train or aeroplane. In BE a "coach" is a single decker bus like vehicle that carries booked passengers or is booked for a party of passengers.

EXERCISE 7

10 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

- Current account banking: _____
- Endine: _____
- Crisps: _____
- Closing down: _____
- Clothes peg: _____
- Economy: _____

WORKOUT 8

30 minutes

American	British	Notes
collect call comfort station	reverse charge public convenience, toilet	Telephone call <i>See</i> washroom. I have also seen “comfort house” applied to a portable toilet on a building site. This would probably be called a “portaloo” in BE, although this is a proprietary term.
comforter	quilt, eiderdown	Warm covering on top of bed that is made up traditionally using sheets and blankets as distinct from a duvet.
concert master condominium, condo	leading or first violin block of flats	leader of orchestra. In BE a “condominium” refers to a territory governed jointly by two nations. In referring to a block of flats BE does not distinguish between rented flats and individually owned flats.
conductor	guard	A railway official. In London, buses have both a driver and a conductor whose job is to sell tickets.
consignment	second hand goods.	The American term refers to goods sold on commission, a concept unknown in the United Kingdom.
cookie	biscuit (sweet)	In British usage “cookie” is sometimes used to refer specifically to a biscuit with chips of chocolate included known, I believe, as a “chocolate chip cookie” in AE.
cooler	cool box	a well insulated box used for food etc., Both BE and AE also use “cooler” as a slang word for a detention cell.
cord	lead, flex	Flexible electrical cable joining an electrical appliance or telephone to a socket. For power connections British practice uses the same colours as are used in Europe, brown for live, blue for neutral and green with yellow stripe for earth. Older British practice still used for permanent cables is red for live, black for neutral and green (or bare copper) for earth. American practice is black for live, white for neutral and green for earth, although it is not normal for the cord from the outlet to the appliance to have colour coded wires.

American	British	Notes
corn	sweet corn, maize, corn-on-the-cob	In British usage "corn" is used fairly generically to mean "wheat" or "oats".
corn starch	corn flour	
cotton batting	cotton wool	An upholstered seat for two or more people. BE has several variants with no specific words for two or three seated versions. A "chesterfield" has buttoned leather upholstery. "Sofa" is a fairly common alternative. A "chaise longue" has an arm at one end only so you can lie down on it. A "love seat" has two seats side by side but facing in opposite directions in a sort of "S" shape, suitable only for the most chaste amatory activities. "couch potato" means the same in BE as AE.
cotton candy	candy floss	
couch	settee	American usage would, typically, be "Orange County". "County" is the local administrative subdivision of US States. "County" is the local administrative subdivision of US states. Apart from "County Durham" the word would not be used in referring to a British administrative division, the suffix "-shire" means that it's a county anyway. The use of the word "County" is normal in referring to Irish administrative divisions. They're called "parishes" in Louisiana, in British usage a "parish" is the lowest level unit of government (rural areas only) or ecclesiastical organisation. Unlike the states of the USA and the provinces of Canada there are no standard postal abbreviations for British counties, and their names are frequently omitted from addresses, a practice that is accepted by the post office if a post code is included.
	county	

EXERCISE 8

10 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

1. Quilt: _____
2. Block of flats: _____
3. Biscuit: _____
4. Lead: _____
5. Candy floss: _____
6. Country: _____

WORKOUT 9

20 minutes

American	British	Notes
crackers	biscuits	In British usage "cracker" can refer to a particular type of biscuit used with cheese or the usage "crackers" can imply that somebody is mentally deranged. BE speakers would be unaware of any racially offensive connotations.
crane fly	daddy-long-legs	
crawl space	under floor	Insect with long legs (<i>Tipula maxima</i>). [My dictionary suggests that AE uses daddy-long-legs to refer to something called a harvestman (Order Opilones) that lives in leaf litter.]
crazy bone	funny bone	
cream of wheat	semolina	void
creek	stream brook	
crosswalk	pedestrian crossing	In British usage a "creek" is a small inlet of the sea. I am told the American word can also be spelt "cricdirector (MD) k", reflecting common pronunciation, although this would be considered uneducated.
cuffs	turn-ups	Specially marked part of roadway used by pedestrians crossing the road. The British usage "zebra crossing" is obsolescent. Many such crossings are controlled by traffic lights, some are still uncontrolled but indicated by large orange globes on striped posts known, after the presiding minister who first installed them, as Belisha beacons.
cupcake	fairy cake	

At bottom of trouser legs. British shirts (with long sleeves) have cuffs.
Small individual cake.

American	British	Notes
custom made	bespoke, made to measure	This refers to clothing, otherwise "custom made" is normal British usage. BE also has "bespoke software" (for computers).
davenport	bed-settee	The AE term is probably proprietary. In BE a davenport is a type of desk.
daylight saving(s) time	summer time	In AE "summer time" refers to any period of time during the summer.
dead end	cul-de-sac	BE also has "no through road", meaning a road that just stops. "cul-de-sac" is largely confined to suburban roads and usually implies a turning circle at the end, often with houses built round it. "no outlet" is also sometimes seen in North America.
deck deck	<i>no equivalent</i>	pack of playing cards A part of a house consisting of wooden boards on the outside of the building at ground or first floor level (or higher) allowing people to walk around. British houses simply do not have such things, the nearest equivalents are "patio" meaning an unroofed area adjacent to a building paved with slabs, "verandah" a covered and glassed walkway along the side of a building and "conservatory" a room-like extension entirely walled and roofed in glass. Wooden decking for use in gardens was introduced to the British market in 1998 and is being heavily promoted as "decking".

EXERCISE 9

5 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

- Daddy-long: _____
- Stream: _____
- Fairy cake: _____
- Cul-de-sac: _____

WORKOUT 10 20 minutes

American**British****Notes**

deductible
delivery tanker

excess
tanker

delivery truck
denatured
alcohol

van

methylated
spirits, meths

desk clerk

receptionist

dessert

pudding

detour
diaper
differ... than

diversion
nappy
differ... from

dime

no equivalent

diner

café

discount

concession

district
attorney
divided
highway

public
prosecutor
dual
carriageway

Of insurance payouts.

A vehicle that transports and delivers liquids such as milk and petroleum products.

Ethanol (C_2H_5OH) that has been made unfit for drinking by the addition of methanol (CH_3OH) and purple colouring. *See* also rubbing alcohol.

In hotel. Both BE and AE use "receptionist" to mean the person in a commercial office who greets visitors.

Course after main course of a meal other than breakfast. "Pudding" usually implies that it has been cooked, otherwise "dessert" is often used.

Calling the course "afters" is thought rather common by most British people. CE as BE. A correspondent has suggested that AE uses "pudding" with the same meaning as the BE "jelly". *See* "Jell-O".

The American usage "different than" grates terribly in British ears, in British English it's "different from" and "differing from".

10 cent coin. For notes on British money, *see* nickel and loonie.

In British usage the spelling "caff" is used to indicate a rather lowly establishment.

Reduced admission prices to cinemas, theatres etc., for students, pensioners etc.

Advertisements often quote a regular admission price and a price for "concessions".

Other uses of "discount" are the same in AE as BE.

The "procurator fiscal" in Scotland.

EXERCISE 10

10 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

1. Tanker: _____
2. Van: _____
3. Receptionist: _____
7. Dual carriageaway: _____
4. Nappy: _____
5. Cafe: _____
6. Concession: _____

WORKOUT 11

20 minutes

American	British	Notes
docent	curator, guide	In a museum, historic house or art gallery. A correspondent has suggested that "docent" implies a volunteer. Contrary to the usage actual surgery is only done by surgeons in hospitals. British senior surgical staff are often referred to as "Mr." rather than "Dr." no matter how highly qualified. This probably dates back to the time when doctors were qualified but surgeons were little more than barbers unworthy of the honorific title. British dentists and veterinarians never use the title "Dr."
doctor's office	surgery	
double whole note	breve	Music
downtown	town centre	The word "center" is, apparently, common usage in New England, England. Enforced membership of military forces. It was also called "national service" in the UK but was abolished in the 1950's.
(the) draft	conscription	
drapes	net curtains	They admit light but preserve privacy.
dresser	chest of drawers, dressing table	
driver's license (US),	driver's permit (Can)	A dressing table is table, usually with 2/3 small drawers and a large adjustable mirror used by ladies for doing their make-up. Driving licence

American**British****Notes**

drug store

pharmacy,
chemists

Pharmacy refers specifically to a place where medicines can be obtained both on and off prescription. A chemist's shop will also sell a variety of personal products such as soap, tooth brushes, toothpaste, combs etc.

druggist

chemist,
pharmacist

The word "chemist" is commoner in BE.

dry goods store

drapery,
haberdashery

A shop selling, cloth, thread and related items. Waste storage and transportation. AE term is proprietary.

dumpster

skip

duplex (house)

semi-detached
house

A pair of dwelling houses sharing a common wall. The single-storied version, which is very unusual, is called a "semi-detached bungalow" in BE. CE as BE. According to a correspondent CE uses "duplex" and "triplex" to mean a building containing two or three self-contained flats. A correspondent has also mentioned "shared-wall dwelling" as AE bureaucrat-speak.

EXERCISE 11

10 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

1. Town centre: _____

4. Pharmacy: _____

2. Net curtains: _____

5. Drapery: _____

3. Chest of drawers: _____

6. Semi-detached: _____

WORKOUT 12

20 minutes

American**British****Notes**

editorial

leader

Article in newspaper or magazine expressing the opinions of the editor. The American usage is not uncommon in BE.

eggplant

aubergine

eighth note

quaver

Music.

electrician's tape

insulating tape

American	British	Notes
elevator England	lift United Kingdom	The American habit of saying "England" when the United Kingdom is meant is mildly annoying to people who live in England and EXTREMELY annoying to people who live in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. <i>See</i> Brit.
entree	main course	In British usage "entree" means first course, sometimes known as starter or in posher circles "hors d'oeuvre".
eraser	rubber	Used to remove marks made by pencils, British pronunciation is eraZer, American is eraSer.
exit	junction	Usually numbered location where you enter (BE) or leave a limited access highway. In North America exit numbering normally reflects the distance in miles (US) or kilometres (Canada) from the start of the highway except on the East Coast. In the UK junctions are numbered successively with new junctions built since the road was first laid out having numbers such as 7a and 11b.
expressway Exxon eyeglasses	main road Esso spectacles, specs	<i>See</i> notes on "interstate". Petrol company.
fall fanny pack	autumn bum bag	Usually just plain "glasses" in both AE and BE. Now where did I put them ? Both words are used in CE.
faucet	tap	Small bag worn around the waist and resting on the bottom. In BE "bum" is a slightly vulgar word for "bottom" and "fanny" is distinctly vulgar word for the female genitalia.
fava bean feminine napkin	broad bean sanitary towel	Strangely in AE tap water comes out of the faucet unless you're in Pennsylvania where, apparently, it's the register. Vegetable (<i>Vicia faba</i>). The word "tampon" has the same meaning in both British and American usage. "Maxi Pad" is an American proprietary term.

EXERCISE 11

10 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

1. Leader: _____
2. Lift: _____
3. Main Course: _____
4. Junction: _____
5. Spectacles: _____
6. Tap: _____
7. Sanitary towel: _____

WORKOUT 13

20 minutes

American	British	Notes
fender	wing	Part of car.
mudguard	Part of bicycle	
fire hall (<i>Can</i>)	fire station	Small packet of readily combustible material. Professional fire fighters deprecate the usage "fire engine" and refer to "fire appliances" (BE) or "fire apparatus" (AE). The phrase "fire engine" is also used in America. In British usage the floors of a building are numbered starting at zero rather than one. So an American reference to the "second floor" would correspond to a British reference to the "first floor".
firehouse	fire station	
fire starter	fire lighter	
fire truck	fire engine	
	or fire appliance	
first floor	ground floor	The native (pre-Columbian) population of America. With a bulb and batteries. "flagpole" as a single word is common American usage.
First Nations (<i>Can</i>)	Native Americans, Indians	
flashlight	torch	
flagstaff	flag pole	An aeroplane adapted to land on and take off from water. The British usage "flying boat" is obsolete. There are differences in nomenclature depending on whether the main fuselage is intended to touch the water (a flying boat or
float home	house boat	
float plane (<i>Can</i>)	sea plane	

American	British	Notes
floor lamp	standard lamp	sea plane) or whether the only part intended to touch the water are floats in more or less the position where a normal aircraft would have wheels (a float plane). Domestic lighting appliance consisting of a tall pole with a lamp on top.
football four way	American football cross roads	<i>See</i> soccer. A place where two roads intersect. In America in the absence of traffic lights, priority is given to vehicles on the right. In the United Kingdom one or other of the roads will have priority, priority is indicated by road markings.

EXERCISE 13

10 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

- Wing: _____
- Fire engine: _____
- Nature: _____
- House boat: _____
- Standard lamp: _____
- Cross roads: _____

WORKOUT 14

20 minutes

American	British	Notes
freeway	motorway	Limited access high speed trunk road. American usages "freeway", "highway", "beltway", "causeway", "express way", "parkway" all have similar meanings that are not differentiated in British usage. "freeway" often implies that it isn't a toll road or turnpike. Apart from a few bridges, toll roads are currently unknown in the UK, although the government has suggested that the situation might change. <i>See</i> "interstate" for details on British road numbering.
french fries	chips	The variants "home fries", "steak fries" and "shoestring fries" don't map into BE, they're thick-cut chips, thin-cut chips and whatever you get in MacDonald's.
freshman	<i>no equivalent</i>	In BE a "freshman" is sometimes used to refer to a first year undergraduate at a university. <i>See</i> "high school".

American	British	Notes
furnace galoshes garbage, trash garbage can garter belt	central heating boiler Wellington boots rubbish dustbin suspender	Domestic use only. Tall rubberised boots. refuse Used to support ladies' stockings. In British usage a "garter" is a band, usually elastic, that goes around the leg to support a sock or stocking. There are no gender specific connotations.
gas	petrol	Fuel for motor vehicles. British usage reserves "gas" to mean an inflammable gas such as methane or carbon monoxide piped to domestic and industrial premises as a fuel. The word gasoline would not be widely understood in Britain. "Petroleum" is sometimes seen in legal and official notices. British aeroplanes are fuelled with "avgas" however, unless they're jets, of course.
gear shift, gear stick generator	gear lever dynamo	Part of car. It converts mechanical energy to electrical energy. The American usage would be familiar to British ears. I was once told that a dynamo only generates DC whereas the machine that generates AC is called an alternator.
girl scouts (US) goaltender goatsucker golden raisin (US)	girl guides goalkeeper nightjar sultana	"goalie" is common in both AE and BE. bird A dried grape.

EXERCISE 14

10 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

1. Chips: _____
2. Central heating boiler: _____
3. Dustbin: _____
4. Petrol: _____
5. Dynamo: _____
6. Goal keeper: _____

WORKOUT 15

20 minutes

American	British	Notes
goose bumps gotten grade	goose pimples got gradient (slope)	The American usage of the word to refer to a stage in a child's progress through school is unknown in the UK. See entry for "high school".
grade crossing graham crackers ground ground	level crossing cream crackers earth minced	Dry biscuits often used for cheese. Electrical. meat, but mincemeat is something completely different composed mainly of fruit and used for making delicious small pies at Christmas time.
GST (<i>Can</i>)	VAT	Goods and Services Tax / Value Added Tax. A tax levied "at the point of consumption". In the UK shop prices are almost always quoted inclusive of VAT (currently 17.5%) so what you see is what you pay. In Canada shop prices are quoted exclusive of this tax so you're in for a surprise when you get to pay, you can always blame "the govern-ment". Canadian GST is currently 7% but the provinces levy their own provincial sales tax (PST), typically at about the same level as the government tax.
gumboot	Wellington	Boot, usually rubber or rubberised, reaching well up the calf worn in agricultural contexts.
gurney	<i>no equivalent</i>	It's not that wheeled stretchers are unknown in British hospitals, it's just that there is no common name for them.
half note hardware store hat check girl headlamp heavy cream hex Hidabed, hideaway	minim ironmonger cloakroom attendant headlight double cream cast a spell on bed-settee	Music. Car. A couch or sofa that can be converted to a bed. Hidabed is proprietary.

American

high school

British*no equivalent***Notes**

The British system of education for those under 18 is quite different from the US system. From 5 to 11 children attend a primary school. From 11 to 18 they will attend a secondary school, in some areas they may transfer to sixth form colleges at the age of 16. The stages are referred to as years starting at 1 (at age 5) up to 11. After the 11th year children may join the 6th form (don't ask!). The phrase "high school" when used refers to a school, often for girls, with selective entry via competitive examination. A similar school for boys is a "grammar school". AE references to "freshmen", "sophomores", "K12" etc., would not be understood in the UK.

EXERCISE 15

10 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

1. Gradient: _____
2. Cream crackers: _____
3. Minium: _____
4. Head light: _____
5. Cast a spell on: _____
6. Bed-settee: _____

WORKOUT 16

20 minutes

American

highway

hoagie

hobo

British

main road

roll

tramp

Notes

In British usage the word "highway" is confined to formal and legal contexts. *See* interstate. There is really no direct BE equivalent. The alternative AE usage "submarine" is not uncommon in British usage. "grinder" and "hero" are apparently regional US variants. Some AE speakers use "hobo" to mean a casual or itinerant worker as distinct from a "bum" or "tramp" who lives by begging and handouts. There is no word in BE to convey this precise distinction.

American	British	Notes
hog	pig	In British usage a "hog" is a person that claims exclusive use of something, i.e. hogs it. Farmers use "hog" to mean a male pig and "sow" to mean a female pig, the use of "hog" to mean a pig of either gender is probably obsolescent.
hood	bonnet	car
horny	randy	<i>Slang.</i> Eager to engage in sexual congress. Americans called Randolph should not introduce themselves in British circles by saying "Hi, I'm Randy", unless, of course, .
house-trailer	caravan	A house like structure fixed behind a vehicle.
hutch	chest, Welsh dresser	A piece of furniture with open shelves, a flat surface and a single row of drawers, usually used for storage and display of plates etc. In BE a "hutch" is a small, usually outdoor, structure where rabbits, ferrets or similar animals live.
icebox	refrigerator	In BE "icebox" refers to the part of the refrigerator kept below freezing point and a "cool box" is a well insulated box for carrying food and drink. The American practice of garages and supermarkets selling ice to replenish a cool box is unknown in Britain.
ice chest	cool box	
incorporated	limited	British firms often have titles ending in "Ltd" meaning limited liability or "Plc" meaning public limited company. "Public" implies that the company's shares are publically traded. There are also private companies.
industrial park	industrial estate	unlovely area of factories and other commercial premises.
installment plan	hire purchase	A scheme for paying for something by a series of payments after you've obtained the item.
instant replay	action replay	Use of video recordings to replay highlights immediately after the event particularly during TV coverage of sporting events.
intersection	cross roads	place where four roads meet or two roads cross depending on your point of view. See also notes on "four-way".
intermission	interval	Break in performance in theatre, cinema or on TV. "Intermission" sounds rather old-fashioned to British ears.

EXERCISE 16

5 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

1. Main road: _____
2. Pig: _____
3. Caravan: _____
4. Refrigerator: _____

WORKOUT 17

20 minutes

American

interstate (*US*)

British

main road,
major road,
trunk road

Notes

A major highway joining different parts of the country. The usage "trunk road" is largely confined to road planners and road system administrators but most closely captures the meaning of "interstate". The specific usage of "interstate" to mean roads funded under a particular legislative act would be unknown to BE speakers. Interstate highways are arranged in a more or less regular geographic fashion with even numbers for those running east-west and odd numbers for those running north-south. Roads in Great Britain have numbers whose initial digits are based on a radial zone system based on London and Edinburgh

- A1 - London to Edinburgh
- A2 - London to Dover
- A3 - London to Portsmouth
- A4 - London to Bristol
- A5 - London to Holyhead
- A6 - London to Carlisle
- A7 - Edinburgh to Carlisle
- A8 - Edinburgh to Greenock
- A9 - Edinburgh to John O'Groats

Roads, for example, between the A1 and A2 all have numbers starting with 1. An initial A means a major road, an initial M means a motorway, an initial B a minor road. A T after the number means a trunk road. An A road

American	British	Notes
		number will sometimes have the suffix M, indicating that it has been built to motorway standards. [e.g. A40(T), A1(M)] There is also an extensive network of unclassified roads sometimes called class C roads. Road numbering is unique, the more the digits, the less important the road. Broadly speaking an "A" road (not trunk) is equivalent to a "federal" road, a "B" road to a state road and the others are equivalent to "county" roads. <i>See also</i> freeway.
Inuit	Eskimo	Most British people are unaware of the preferred usage and are equally unaware of any negative connotations associated with the word "Eskimo", there are very few Inuit in the British Isles. CE prefers "Inuit".
janitor	caretaker	BE has no distinction between a "live-in" caretaker and one who comes in on a daily basis.
jack	socket	Connector for telephone. In BE "jack plugs" and "jack sockets" are particular types of multi-pole electrical connectors. <i>See</i> outlet.
jelly	<i>no equivalent</i>	Spread for toast or bread not incorporating preserved fruit only fruit juice. <i>See</i> preserves.
jelly roll	Swiss roll	A sort of cake made by spreading jam on a square cake base and then rolling it up into a cylinder.
Jell-o	jelly	US term is proprietary. An edible gelatine based substance often flavoured with fruit and used as a dessert, frequently with ice cream. <i>See</i> washroom.
john	toilet	
jump rope (US)	skipping rope	
jumper	short dress	In British usage "jumper" means a sweater.
kerosene	paraffin	A flammable liquid. "paraffin" in AE refers to a solid waxy substance known as "paraffin wax" or just plain "wax" in BE and used for making candles etc.
kindergarten	nursery	<i>See</i> high school.
Kleenex	tissues	American term is proprietary.
knickers/		

American

knickerbockers

last name
lawyer,**British**

plus fours

surname
lawyer,**Notes**

Rather old-fashioned loose fitting trousers especially worn by golfers. In BE "knickers" refers to an undergarment covering the body from the waist to the top of the thighs, it can also be used as a slang word implying contempt or annoyance. In BE a "knickerbocker glory" is a rather splendid ice cream, fruit and cream dessert served in a tall glass.

EXERCISE 17

10 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

1. Trunk road: _____
2. Caretaker: _____
3. Socket: _____
4. Toilet: _____
5. Paraffin: _____
6. Nursery: _____

WORKOUT 18

20 minutes

Americanadvocate,
attorney**British**solicitor,
barrister**Notes**

In BE "lawyer" is a general purpose term, broadly synonymous with "solicitor" for a legal practitioner. A "barrister" is a more highly qualified (and paid !) practitioner who specialises in pleading (advocacy) in higher courts. Until very recently only barristers were allowed to practice in higher courts but this is slowly changing. In England and Wales, justice is administered via a hierarchy of magistrates' courts, county courts, crown courts and high courts with an ultimate appeal to the House of Lords. In criminal cases proceedings are initiated and led by the public or crown prosecutor (known as the procurator fiscal in Scotland). The legal system in Scotland is different from that in the rest of the United Kingdom.

American	British	Notes
lead	cable	Permanent electrical wiring. See entry for "cord". "cable" meaning TV distributed by cable is common to both AE and BE.
legal holiday	bank holiday	Current bank holidays in England are (for 1998) Jan 1st (New Year's Day), April 10th (Good Friday), April 13th (Easter Monday), May 4th (May Day), May 25th (Spring Bank Holiday, don't confuse with Whitsun which is a religious festival), Aug 31st (Summer Bank Holiday), Dec 25th (Christmas) and Dec 26th (Boxing Day). The May day holiday is always the first monday in May, not May 1st.
lemonade	real lemonade, squash, cordial	In British usage "lemonade" often refers to a sort of carbonated sugar water.
license plate / license	number plate	It indicates the identity of a tag vehicle. British number plates are permanent for the life of the vehicle. There is a single nationwide system of numbering. The payment of annual road tax is indicated by a small paper disc fixed to the windscreen.
Lifesavers	Polo	Both terms are proprietary and refer to a hard round white mint, sometimes fruit flavoured, with a hole in the middle.
lima bean	butter bean	
line	queue	Group of people waiting in an orderly fashion. AE "waiting in line" is equivalent to BE "queueing".
line cord	mains lead	Flexible cable joining electrical appliance to supply.
liquor	spirits	Alcoholic drink whose preparation involves distillation. Includes whisky, brandy, gin, vodka.
liquor store	off licence	A shop selling alcoholic drinks for consumption off the premises. There are regional variations in both AE and CE. Many British supermarkets and grocery shops also sell alcoholic beverages. In some North American regions (e.g. British Columbia) the sale of alcohol in this fashion is a monopoly. See bar.

American	British	Notes
lobby	foyer	First main room you encounter on entering a hotel, theatre or cinema. Both terms may be encountered in all versions of English. In BE a "lobby" is a group of people attempting to influence an organisation or decision making process, especially parliament.
long distance	trunk call	Telephone. There is no general word for this in BE.
loon loonie (Can)	great northern diver <i>no equivalent</i>	Bird pictured on Canadian one dollar coin. This refers to a one dollar coin. In BE and AE "loony" means somebody who is stupid and is a colloquialism for lunatic. Fortunately I'd read the Air Canada in-flight magazine when the airport bus driver asked me "Have you got a Looney?" The British pound coin is simply called a "pound coin". Pound notes were last issued in England in about 1985. Scottish banks issue their own notes which are different from those issued by the Bank of England and their one pound notes may sometimes be encountered. They are generally accepted in England. Referring to a pound as a "quid" is rapidly becoming uncommon in BE. See entry for "bill" for details on British paper currency.

EXERCISE 18

10 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

1. Cable: _____
2. Polo: _____
3. Mains lead: _____
4. Sprints: _____
5. Foyer: _____
6. Trunk call: _____

WORKOUT 19

10 minutes

American	British	Notes
lost and found lot	lost property plot	Parcel of land that can be bought and sold and is, usually, partly occupied by a building. <i>See couch.</i>
love seat low fat milk	settee semi-skimmed milk	In the UK there is no defined meaning for phrases such as "fat free" and "low fat" although consumer groups are campaigning for such standards.
luggage rack	roof rack	On the roof of a car. In BE luggage racks are found in trains and aeroplanes but not cars.
lumber	timber	AE distinguishes standing timber (i.e. trees that haven't been chopped down) from lumber (which is what they become after they've been chopped down and the logs cut to shape and size). BE uses "timber" in both contexts. In BE "lumber" refers to unwanted items hence "lumber room" and "to lumber somebody" i.e. give them an unwanted task and also means to proceed slowly and clumsily.
M & M	Smarties	Both terms are proprietary and refer to small sweets with hard coloured sugary coatings. Both words are also sometimes used to mean any small item. Smarties have hard chocolate centres are shaped vaguely like flying saucers. A correspondent tells me there is a US sweet called Smarties that do not have chocolate centres.
mail	post	What you do to a letter or parcel to send it on its way. Whilst on its way its "in the mail" (AE) or "in the post" (BE).
mail man	postman	"mail lady" sounds improbable to British ears. In Britain she's called a post woman. "mail carrier" is an alternative American usage and has the official approval of the US Postal Service.
main street	high street	A common name for the most important road in a town or city. Often used to refer generally to the shops and retail outlets of a town or city.

American	British	Notes
maize	sweet corn	<p>"maize" is apparently common in AE. Also known as "corn on the cob". The use of "maize" to mean a shade of yellow is not known in BE. The obsolescent British usage "shopping arcade" means a group of shops fronting on to a covered pedestrian way. "Shopping centre" usually implies covered access in British usage whereas American usage uses "mall" to imply covered access and "center" to imply non-covered access. A "parade of shops" in British usage refers to a row of shops fronting on to a road, this usage is largely confined to Southern England. "mall" can also mean a large public park-like area such as Independence Mall in Philadelphia.</p> <p>Both terms are proprietary.</p>
mall	shopping centre	
Mason jar	Kilner jar	<p>Credit card company. The British arm has been called "Master Card" since 1998 but many British people still refer to "Access".</p>
mass transit	public transport	
Master Card	Access	<p>The person who introduces the performers in a TV or stage variety show. However BE ceremonies" for the person "orchestrating" a wedding reception or similar social occasion.</p> <p>In BE "mean" means stingy, unwilling to spend money, miserly. In AE "mean" can also mean "good".</p>
master of ceremonies	compere	
mean	bad tempered	<p>Dividing strip down the middle of a dual carriageway. Also called "median strip" in AE.</p>
meat grinder	mincer	
median (strip)	central reservation	<p>Times expressed using numbers in the range 0–23 for the hours.</p> <p>A drink made by mixing champagne and orange juice.</p> <p>See trailer.</p>
military time	24 hour clock	
mimosa	Buck's Fizz	
mobile home	caravan	

EXERCISE 20

10 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

1. Plot: _____
2. Semi-skimmed: _____
3. Timber: _____
4. Post: _____
5. High street: _____
6. Compere: _____

WORKOUT 21

20 minutes

American	British	Notes
mortician	undertaker	There are regional variations in American usage. The productions themselves. In BE you go to the cinema.
movies	films	
movie theater	cinema	"cinema" is also used in both BE and AE to refer the art and culture of films.
moving company	removal company	A company that will move your personal effects etc.
moving van	pantechnicon, removal van	Lorry adapted for moving personal effects when moving house. Sometimes called a "panel truck" in AE.
muffler	silencer	Part of vehicle exhaust system. In British usage a muffler is a sort of scarf. In AE a silencer is something you put on a gun.
mutual fund	unit trust	A scheme whereby the investor buys shares or units in a fund which, in turns, buys shares in many companies thereby spreading risk. Dividends received by the fund are aggregated and paid to the fund's investors in proportion to the number of units they have purchased.
napkin	serviette	5 cent coin. The traditional names for British coins such as tanner (6d), bob (1/-), florin (2/-) and half-a-crown (2/6) all disappeared when the currency was decimalised in 1972. Surprisingly new names for the new coins have not emerged, mercifully the habit of referring to 5p as "five pee" that was common immediately after decimalisation is now dying out and most
nickel	no equivalent	

American	British	Notes
		people would simply say "five pence". The current coin set is 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, &dd,1 and £2. The 1p and 2p are copper plated steel, sometimes called "coppers", the 5p and 10p are "silvery", the 10p being bigger than the 5p (unlike the nickel and dime). The 20p and 50p are curious seven-sided "silvery" affairs with curved edges, these having the interesting geometrical property of constant width (similar to the eleven-sided loonie). The £1 coin is small thick and rather yellowy, nobody calls it a sovereign. The recently introduced (1999) £2 coin is similar to the Canadian \$2 coin having a "silvery" bit and a "yellowy" bit.
nightstick notions	truncheon haberdashery	Blunt cosh-like weapon carried by policemen. Accessories such as buttons and zips used in the manufacture of garments. In BE "haberdashery" also refers to a shop selling such things.
number sign oatmeal oh	hash mark porridge nil	Used in reporting the scores of sports fixtures. Where AE would say "two-oh" or "two to nothing", BE would say "two-nil" for a score of 2-0.
oil pan on-ramp, off-ramp	sump sliproad	Part of engine of motor vehicle. How you join or leave a limited access highway. Sometimes called "exit ramp" in AE.
operating room orchestra seat	operating theatre stalls	Seat in a theatre on the same level as the stage and orchestra
outhouse	privy	In British usage an outhouse is just that. A small, usually brick, building used for storage or similar purposes with no through access from the main building.
overalls	dungarees	In British usage an "overall" is a one-piece sleeved garment used to cover one's normal clothes when working in a dirty place or job. In British usage "dungarees" often refer to such a garment worn by children or women, especially when pregnant, it consists of trousers integral with a bib-like top.

EXERCISE 21

10 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

1. Films _____
2. Silencer: _____
3. Unit trust: _____
4. Haber dashery: _____
5. Stalls: _____
6. Dungarees: _____

WORKOUT 22

20 minutes

American

British

Notes

outlet

socket

Connector for telephone or electrical power. In BE these are sometimes referred to as "telephone points" or "power points". British telephone sockets are similar to American ones except that the little latching thingy is on the side rather than the top.

overpass

flyover

Road system.

pacifier

dummy

Artificial nipple used to stop small children crying.

paddle

bat

For "ping-pong" and similar games.

panhandler

beggar

pantihose/pantyhose

tights

In America "pantihose" are translucent whereas "tights" are opaque. This distinction is not known in BE.

pants

trousers

The word "pants" refers to an undergarment in BE.

paraffin

wax

parka

anorak

In British usage the word "anorak" is also used perjoratively to refer to somebody with a seemingly obsessive hobby interest in something mechanical.

parkade (*Can*)

multi-storey

car park

parking garage/
ramp

multi-storey car park

parking lot

car park

parking stall

parking bay

American	British	Notes
pass	overtake	When a faster vehicle passes a slower one travelling in the same direction, especially when the manoeuvre involves crossing into a lane normally used by vehicles travelling in the other direction.
pastor	minister, vicar, rector	There are subtle differences but one has to understand the ancient and complex administrative hierarchy of the Church of England to understand them. There are also curates, rural deans archdeacons, wardens, readers and sextons.
paved shoulder pavement	hard shoulder paved area	At side of road. It refers to any area that is paved and sealed against water by asphalt or concrete. Such areas can be for foot traffic as well as vehicular traffic.
penitentiary	prison	"prison" is also common American usage except in the proper names of such institutions where "penitentiary" or "correctional institute" is used.
penny period	cent full stop	Punctuation at end of sentence, otherwise its just a dot or decimal point. As it comes out of the ground.
petroleum phonograph	crude oil record player, gramophone	"gramophone" is distinctly archaic. Of course gramophone records (aka "vinyl") are themselves pretty much obsolete now, although keen audio types may still have a "turntable" to play them on.
pitcher	jug	
plastic wrap	clingfilm	Thin transparent film used for wrapping food. "Saran wrap" is a US proprietary term.
pocketbook	wallet, purse	The AE word "pocketbook" is reported as being synonymous with "handbag"
polliwog pool	tadpole snooker	Baby frog. Really very different games, the only similarities are the use of long narrow wooden cues to push balls around on a cloth covered table usually in a smoky club.

American	British	Notes
popsicle	lollipop	Frozen confectionary made of ice cream or fruit juice. The British version usually has a spatula like wooden stick printed with execrable jokes. The old fashioned version consisting of flavoured crystallised sugar may also be encountered. "Popsicle" is proprietary.
pork rinds	pork scratchings	
postal code (<i>Can</i>)	post code	See zip code.
postal outlet (<i>Can</i>)	sub post office	A shop that includes a counter providing postal services as well as its normal trade (it may be a pharmacy, a grocery or, especially in rural areas, a general store). Post Offices (sometimes called General Post Offices or Crown Offices) are owned by the Post Office (or Post Office Counters Ltd.,) and handle only postal services, although they're increasingly branching into the sale of stationery, greetings cards etc.
potato chips	crisps	See also French Fries.
pot holders	oven gloves	Padded mittens for holding hot dishes. Oven mitts in CE.
pound sign, number sign	hash sign	This refers to the symbol #. To British people a pound sign is, of course, the currency symbol £. Confusion is heightened by the fact the the # symbol appears in the same place on American keyboards as the £ symbol on British keyboards (above the 3). You're probably wondering where the # symbol appears on British keyboards, that's another story.
powdered sugar (<i>US</i>)	icing sugar	
pre-natal	ante-natal	For mothers to be.
preserves	jam, marmalade	Fruit, usually chopped in, mixed with sugar and boiled then cooled and bottled. Used as a spread on toast, bread etc, and as a cake filling. In AE it is suggested that "jam" implies pulped fruit whereas "preserves" implies recognisable chunks of fruit, in BE both would be called "jam". In BE "preserves" refers to fruit preserved whole, usually in a sugar solution or syrup, without being first chopped up. "marmalade" is

American	British	Notes
pressure	pressurise	<p>the same thing made using citrus fruits such as oranges and is widely used on toast at breakfast. To try and force somebody to do something. You have to pay to go there.</p> <p>College or university official charged with supervising the conduct of an examination. Teacher in university or college. In BE the title "Professor" is awarded to lecturers who have a particularly distinguished record in administration or research (usually the administration of research).</p> <p>Business part of electrical connector. You don't have to pay to go there. The state, in the guise of local authorities, pay. OK, you ultimately pay via taxes.</p> <p>Place where you can park temporarily at the side of a road. This is not to be confused with the "shoulder" or "hard shoulder" that runs continuously at the side of major roads and motorways.</p> <p>A low-cut slip-on woman's shoe. In British usage "pump" is a regional name for what is now called a "trainer" or "running shoe". In Scotland "pump", apparently, means to pass wind.</p>
private school	public school	
proctor	invigilator	
professor	lecturer	
prong	pin	
public school	state school	
pullout, pulloff	lay by	
pump	court shoe	

EXERCISE 22

10 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

1. Socket: _____
2. Wax: _____
3. Prison: _____
4. Post code: _____
5. Pressurise: _____
6. Pin: _____

WORKOUT 23

20 minutes

American	British	Notes
purse	handbag	In BE a purse is used by women to carry currency notes, credit cards etc., whereas a handbag is used by women to carry a vast assortment of oddments including their purses.
quarter	<i>no equivalent</i>	25c coin.
quarter note	crotchet	Music.
Quonset hut	Nissen hut	Building shaped as a half-cylinder with walls and roof formed from corrugated iron. American term is probably proprietary.
radio	wireless	"radio" is now normal in BE, "wireless" sounds pleasantly archaic except when applied to non-wired local area networks.
Radio Shack	Tandy	The same catalogue of electronic goods. Tandy has recently been taken over and the name is likely to disappear from British High Streets.
railroad	railway	
rain check	<i>no equivalent</i>	There is no BE equivalent of the "strict" meaning of a ticket for re-admission at a later date or a chit issued by a shop to entitle you to purchase a reduced price item that is temporarily out of stock.
rappel	abseil	
Realtor	estate agent	"Realtor" implies membership of a professional body, the National Association of Realtors or its local branches
Realty	estate agency	
recess	break	Gap in proceedings, usually for refreshment when BE might specifically refer to a "lunch break" or a "dinner break", however British courts recess.
reforestation	reafforestation	
rent	hire	Of cars.
restroom	toilet	See washroom.
résumé	curriculum vitae (CV)	Document prepared to impress prospective employers. "curriculum vitae" is sometimes used by American academics. In British usage a résumé is used to mean a summary or summing up in any context.

American	British	Notes
(American) Revolutionary War roast	American War of Independence joint meat	Spot of unpleasantness in the late 18th century. In American usage "joint" refers to a preparation incorporating illegal drugs (or "certain substances" as the British police call them), this and other usages of "joint" are not uncommon in BE.
robe	dressings gown	See bath robe. The use of the word "robe" for a particularly rich and special garment is common to British and American English.
roll rooming house	tube lodging house	Cardboard cylinder, especially for certain sweets. Also "roomer" and "lodger".
rotary	roundabout	Road system. Also known as a "traffic circle" in AE. "rotary" is, apparently, common usage in parts of New England but unknown in other parts of North America. Sometimes called a "traffic island" in BE.
round trip (US) row house rubber boots	return ticket terrace house Wellingtons	To get you there and back See townhouse. "Welly/Wellies" are common informal BE. Very long boots reaching above the knee and worn by fishermen/anglers are called "waders" in both British and American usage.
rubbers rubbing alcohol run run for office	condoms surgical spirit ladder stand for	Contraceptives. "Rubbers" is colloquial/archaic. Used for sterilizing. Defect in ladies' tights (pantihose) or stockings.
runners (Can) running shoes	trainers trainers	election There are interesting regional variations in both British and American usage. "Pumps", "Plimsolls" and "Daps" are all British regional variations. American regional variations include "Sneakers" (New England and Mid-Atlantic states) and "Tennis Shoes".
rutabaga sack lunch	swede packed lunch	

American	British	Notes
sales clerk sales tax sand box	shop assistant VAT sand pit	<i>See GST.</i> Where children play. In BE a "sand pit" is also a place where sand is extracted for commercial and industrial use, children don't play in such sand pits.
sanitary napkin	sanitary towel	"Tampons" are the same in British and American usage.
savings and loan trust	building society	Organisation originally devoted to making loans to help members purchase their own homes. Until fairly recently British building societies were owned by their members, i.e. were "mutual", many have now converted to banks and are owned by their shareholders. In the process of conversion substantial numbers of shares were issued free to members who then sold them. The resulting money is called a "windfall" in the British press and has also resulted in the appearance of "carpetbaggers" who join a still unconverted society in anticipation of easy profits. Technically building societies that have converted to banks are no longer building societies but this subtlety would probably be lost on most British people.

EXERCISE 23

10 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

1. handbag: _____
2. Wireless: _____
3. Breakt: _____
4. Roundabout: _____
5. Dressing gown: _____
6. Tube: _____

WORKOUT 24

20 minutes

American	British	Notes
sawbuck, sawhorse	<i>no equivalent</i>	No British usage for this rack for supporting wood that is being sawn. The usage of "sawbuck" for a \$10 bill also has no British equivalent.
scale scallion schedule	weighbridge spring onion timetable	Facility for weighing commercial vehicles.
scheme	plot	In BE "schedule" is used to refer to forward planning of, usually personal, activities with a very similar meaning to the word "plan". both terms have overtones of deviousness. "scheme" lacks such overtones in BE.
Scotch Tape	Sellotape	Both terms are proprietary. "Sticky tape" is also sometimes used. This refers to thin transparent tape used for parcels, mending torn paper and fixing notices in such a way that the paint comes off the wall.
second floor	first floor	In British buildings the ground floor is, effectively, floor zero.
sedan seeing eye dog (US)	saloon guide dog	Type of car. An animal specially trained to help blind people. CE is as BE. AE term is proprietary.
semi-trailer server	articulated lorry waiter or waitress	The word "server" has overtones of gender non-specific political correctness.
senior shade	pensioner blind	"Senior citizen" is common in both AE and BE. Specifically "shade" in American usage refers to a continuous piece of fabric that can be rolled or unrolled, known as a "roller blind" in British usage. The arrangement of adjustable horizontal slats is known as a "venetian blind" in British usage.
sherbet	sorbet	Water ice made from fruit juice etc. In British usage "sherbet" is a fruit-flavoured effervescent powder, often eaten with liquorice by children.
shoestring	bootlace, shoelace	Used for tying up shoes and boots. Both BE and AE have "doing something on a shoestring" to mean with the least expenditure of resources.

American	British	Notes
shrimp	prawn	In British restaurants "shrimps" are larger (and more expensive) than "prawns" which is contrary to normal zoological practice. AE restaurant usage is equally confusing with regional variations.
sidewalk	pavement or footpath	
silverware	cutlery	Knives, forks and spoons. Modern AE/CE reserves "silverware" for the best cutlery.
sixteenth note	semi-quaver	music
ski mask	balaclava	Head covering popular with terrorists and bank robbers.
skivvies <i>obs</i>	underpants and vest	"Skivvy/skivvies" in BE refers to a menial domestic worker.
sled	sledge	A sledge hammer is the same in both BE and AE.
slingshot	catapult	
smoked herring	kipper	Very nice too apart from all those little bones.
snaps	press studs	Metal or plastic fixings that snap together.
sneakers	trainers	<i>See</i> running shoes.
snowpack	lying snow	
snow peas	mangetout	
soccer	football	Do not confuse with American football.
social security number (<i>US</i>)	national insurance number	Unique personal identity used by state benefits and taxation schemes. British national insurance numbers consist of two letters, six digits and a further letter (no spaces). Known as "social insurance number" in Canada.
soda	soft drink	Sometimes called "pop". Correspondents have suggested that Americans use "soda", "soda water", "soda pop", "soft drink", "coke", "cola" and "pop" fairly interchangeably with distinct regional preferences, e.g. "pop" in the mid-west, "coke" in the south and "soda" in the north-east. There is no BE equivalent of the dessert/treat called "soda" and made from ice cream and fruit juice.

American	British	Notes
soother	dummy	Artificial nipple used to stop small children crying, usually called a "pacifier" in AE.
sophomore	<i>no equivalent</i>	Sewing thread etc.
spool	reel	Characterful and uneconomic part of railway system.
spur line	branch line	

EXERCISE 23

10 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

1. Films _____
2. Silencer: _____
3. Unit trust: _____
4. Haber dashery: _____
5. Stalls: _____
6. Dungarees: _____

WORKOUT 24

20 minutes

American	British	Notes
squash	vegetable marrow	Slightly different but related vegetables. In British usage "squash" often means "fruit juice". The game "squash" is the same in both British and American usage.
standings	table, league table	Lists showing relative performance of sports teams
state school	special school	School for those with learning difficulties.
station wagon	estate car	
stick shift	gear lever	Part of car; "stick shift/stick" can also refer to a car with manual transmission.
store	shop	In British usage a store is a place where things are stored such as a warehouse, however the American usage is not uncommon in Britain although confined to larger establishments.
stove	cooker, oven	Used for cooking not heating. In British usage a domestic "cooker" comprises both a heated "hob" comprising burners or hotplates on the

American	British	Notes
straight	neat	top of the cooker ("cooktop" in AE) and a heated "oven" which forms the main part of the cooker.
streetcar	tram	Drinks, undiluted with mixers such as water and tonic. Americans seem to use the words "streetcar", "tramway" and "trolley" almost interchangeably to mean any form of public surface transport not powered by an internal combustion engine. In British usage there are a number of quite distinct usages. 1. cable car : A vehicle without an engine or motor that is moved by a hauling cable. Apart from the unique system in San Francisco, these are suspended from a stationary overhead cable. They are sometimes called "gondolas" or "air trams" in AE/CE. "Chair Lifts" and similar arrangements used by winter sports enthusiasts are not referred to as "cable cars" in BE. 2. tram : This is a vehicle that uses steel wheels running on steel rails let into the surface of a normal road. It is usually powered by electricity taken from overhead conductors. They were once driven by steam engines or pulled by horses. Modern systems are sometimes referred to as "light railways" or "metros" especially when a substantial portion of the route is on a private track rather than public roads. 3. trolley bus : This is a bus-like vehicle with normal rubber tyres but powered by electricity taken from overhead conductors. These quiet, clean vehicles are, alas, obsolete in the United Kingdom, however extensive systems still operate in Vancouver and several other North American cities.
strip mall stroller	parade of shops push chair, baby buggy	<i>See</i> mall A device with four (small) wheels for the conveyance of small children in a sitting position. The version with three large wheels is now being seen occasionally in the UK.

American	British	Notes
stub	counterfoil	In British usage a "stub" is a shortened end of something, often implying that the rest of the object has been broken off, the usage "stub one's foot" means to bring the foot into sudden, often accidental, contact with some obstacle.
subway	underground railway	In British usage a "subway" is a means by which pedestrians can cross from one side of a road to another by means of tunnel or underground passageway. The American usage of "Underground Railway" to refer to the smuggling of escaped slaves from the South by Harriet Tubman would be unknown to the vast majority of British people.
suspenders	braces	In British usage "suspenders" are used to keep ladies' stockings in the right place. Braces are elastic straps passing over the shoulder and used to keep gentlemen's trousers from falling down although the use of a belt or elasticated waist-band is now much more common. Both AE and BE also use "brace" to refer a device for supporting something or holding components at a precise distance in both dentistry and general engineering.
sweeper	vacuum cleaner	Also often called a "hoover" in BE, although the word is proprietary.
switch	points	Part of railway. BE uses "switch" in the same way as AE in other contexts.
switchback	hairpin bend	Sudden reversal in direction of road. In BE a "switchback" refers to a road that goes up and down a lot, also known as a "roller-coaster".
switchblade knife	flick knife	
switcher	shunter	Small railway locomotive.
switchyard	marshalling yard	Place where goods trains are assembled from individual trucks.
telephone pole	telegraph pole	Although the provision of a public telegram service by the then Post Office is a distant memory, the poles that support the overhead wires are still quite frequently called "tele-graph poles". See utility pole.

American	British	Notes
teleprompter	autocue	Device that saves politicians and actors the chore of memorising their lines.
teller	cashier	banks, shops. CE uses "bank teller" otherwise CE is as BE.
texas gate (<i>Can</i>)	cattle grid	System of bars let into surface of road to prevent passage of animals whilst allowing free passage of vehicles.
thread	cotton	Used for sewing. In British usage "thread" is sometimes used in this context to identify something stronger than the normal product.
thumbtack	drawing pin	
tic-tac-toe	noughts and crosses	
tie	sleeper	Piece of timber or concrete supporting the rails of a railway.
tie	draw	sport
toonie (<i>Can</i>)	<i>no equivalent</i>	Two dollar coin. Variant spellings including "twoonie", "twonie" and "twoony" are now, apparently, rare. For notes on British money see the entries for "nickel" and "loonie".

EXERCISE 24

10 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

1. Vegetable marrow: _____
2. Neat: _____
3. Counterfoil: _____
4. Knife: _____
5. Cashier: _____
6. Cotton: _____

WORKOUT 25

20 minutes

American	British	Notes
townhouse	terrace house	A house, usually of more than one storey and with other houses sharing common walls on both sides. It will have its own door onto the street. In British usage "terrace housing" sometimes implies low quality housing reflecting the large number of small dwellings of this type put up to house the workers of the newly industrialised towns of the 19th century.

American	British	Notes
tractor-trailer	articulated	lorry or "artic" Road System.
traffic circle (<i>US</i>)	roundabout	
trail	track, footpath	Especially away from roads.
trailer, trailer	home	caravan Mobile living accommodation towed behind a vehicle. Caravans, sometimes called just plain vans by their users, are subdivided into touring caravans which are towed by people travelling from place to place and static caravans which stay more or less permanently on a site but can be moved on the back of a lorry. AE "trailer park" is equivalent to BE "caravan park". The logical American usage is replacing the illogical British usage.
train station	railway station	
transit	public transport	
transmission		
tower	electricity pylon	Metal lattice tower supporting high voltage electric power cables.
trash	rubbish	
trash can	dustbin	
trolley		<i>See streetcar.</i>
truck	lorry	
truck stop	transport café	
trunk	boot	of car
tub	bath	<i>See bathtub.</i>
tube	valve	Electronics.
turn signals	indicators	Part of car. Very old British cars used "trafficators", which were small illuminated mechanical arms that emerged from the top of the door pillar.
turtle neck	polo neck	A sweater that fits closely round the neck and has a turned over collar.
tuxedo	dinner jacket	"tuxedo" refers to the jacket and trousers combination
two-four (<i>Can</i>)	no equivalent	This refers to selling beer in packs of 24 bottles or cans. Beer is sold in such packs in the UK, but there is no specific name for such packages.
two weeks under	fortnight	i.e. 14 days

American	British	Notes
basement	cellar	Underground room beneath house, entirely beneath local ground level and usually without windows, used just for storage. Rare in British houses built later than about 1920. CE is as BE.
undershirt	vest	
unemployment dole, unemployment pay/benefit	compensation/ insurance	Money paid via state run insurance schemes for those out of work. "unemployment pay" is the official title. "pogey" is a Canadian word.
union suit	long johns, combinations	Thermal underwear. "Union suit" and "combinations" refer to a one-piece garment covering the whole body.
utility pole	telegraph pole	Pole, usually wooden, supporting power and communications cables especially for final distribution to domestic premises. In the UK electric power is almost always distributed underground and communication cables are increasingly underground. British visitors are often surprised by the untidy tangles of overhead wire in North American cities.
vacation	holiday	BE does not distinguish between "public" or statutory holidays (sometimes called "bank" holidays because banks are not open for business) and individual holidays from work.
valance	pelmet	Decorative box like construction at top of window to conceal the tops of the curtains and the rail they run on.
vacationer	holidaymaker	
vest	waistcoat	In British usage "vest" refers to an undergarment worn underneath a shirt.
veterans' day	remembrance day	Day for remembering former soldiers. In Britain this is celebrated on the Sunday nearest November 11th with parades and church services and, increasingly in recent years, 2 minutes silence is observed at 1100 on November 11th. Canadian practice is similar to British practice. British people wear paper poppies as a mark of remembrance.

American	British	Notes
wall to wall (carpet) wallet	fitted carpet purse	In British usage a wallet is a small folding holder for paper money (not coin), cards etc. Men usually carry wallets in a pocket (trouser or jacket).
wash cloth washroom	(face) flannel toilet	Both AE and BE have numerous euphemisms for the place where one urinates or defecates. "Toilet" is generally acceptable in British usage as is "loo". "WC" (meaning water closet) is also acceptable but usually means the actual apparatus rather than the room in which it is located. "Lavatory" sounds rather old-fashioned. In British English a washroom is a place where one goes to wash. The words "john" and "jakes" perhaps both derive from the French "Jacques". "washroom" seems to be the preferred Canadian usage. Public facilities are called public conveniences in BE.
water heater	immersion heater, geyser	Arrangement for producing domestic hot water other than as part of a central heating system. An immersion heater uses an electric heating element in a tank. A geyser, sometimes known by the proprietary name "Ascot", is a gas operated device, which bursts, rather frighteningly, into action when you turn the tap on.
weed wacker, weed eater	trimmer	Powered garden tool that consists of a rapidly spinning mylon line that chops down weeds. US terms are proprietary.
welfare	benefit	A variety of state payments to the poor and needy.

EXERCISE 25

10 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Terrace house: _____ | 4. Cellar: _____ |
| 2. Lorry: _____ | 5. Holiday: _____ |
| 3. Rubbish: _____ | 6. Waistcoat: _____ |

WORKOUT 26

20 minutes

American

British

Notes

wheat bread (*US*)

brown bread

whiskey

whisky

whole note

semi-breve

windshield

windscreen

wire

telegram

wrench

spanner

yard

garden

i.e. it isn't white. There are many variants some of which are just coloured, most of which are "wholemeal" meaning that all the wheat including the husks is used in making the bread, not just the grain.

"whisky" is distilled in Scotland, the drink distilled in Ireland and other places is called "whiskey".

Music.

Part of car.

A text message sent via a public telegraph system. In BE the verb is "to send a telegram".

A tool with a claw shaped aperture used for tightening or loosening nuts. An adjustable version is called an "adjustable spanner" or a "monkey wrench" or a "Stilson" in BE. Most British nuts and bolts are now in European standard metric sizes although the American UNC and UNF sizes are not uncommon as are the older British

Association (BA) and Whitworth sizes. You need a lot of spanners to cover all eventualities. In British usage "yard" means an area of ground adjacent to a building with a hard surface adapted for use by vehicles and horses, a "garden" is a place where plants are grown. In American usage "yard" covers both, referring to that part of the property not covered by buildings.

EXERCISE 26

5 minutes

Now write the American spelling of the following:

1. Whisky: _____
2. Spanner: _____
3. Garden: _____
4. Telegram: _____

WORKOUT 27

10 minutes

American

British

zee (US)

zed

zip code (US)

post code

zucchini
911

courgette
999

Notes

last letter of the alphabet. Canadians call it "zed".

Used to speed sorting mail. American zip codes consist of a single 5 digit number sometimes followed by a 4 digit number. British and Canadian codes use both letters and digits e.g. WV1 1SB (this university), V8W 1Y2 (a good book shop I once visited) and are correctly shown with a gap between the two parts and no full stops since they are not abbreviations.

Telephone number for emergency services. Usually 99 sufficient. The extra 9 is in case you're on a private branch exchange when the first 9 gets you an exchange line. British telephone systems will also recognise the European standard emergency services number 112. A correspondent has told me that 911 also works in the UK but I've never had the courage (or the need) to try it.

Common Slangs

We present a large number of American slangs below. The slang terms are used in sentences to show their actual meaning. An equivalent in normal English is given in italics below each example.

1. Your ideas about politics are **all wet**.
completely wrong
2. I am really **wired** after drinking five cups of coffee.
alert
3. We need to **hang tough on** our decision.
Stick with
4. If you let me borrow your **wheels**, I'll go out and buy a pizza.
Car
5. That is really a **lame** excuse.
An inadequate
6. Who is going to **quarterback** the meeting?
Lead
7. I really **goofed up** when I painted my room green.
Make a serious mistake
8. He is good at rolling **joints**.
Marijuana cigarettes
9. I think I am going **bonkers**.
Crazy
10. The cows were **spooked** by the howling of the wolves.
Frightened

Now make your own sentences using the following slangs:

1. **All wet** :
2. **Wired** :
3. **Hang tough on** :
4. **Quarterback** :
5. **Goofed up** :
6. **Spooked** :

See the following set of American slangs. You will get ten minutes for ten questions:

1. It's OK. Don't get so **bent**.
angry
2. Don't **get so bent out of shape**.
become upset
3. The president brought two **big guns** to the meeting.
powerful people
4. Shut up! You really **have a big mouth**.
talk too much
5. The citizens made a **big stink** about the new nuclear power station.
big issues
6. He carried a ten inch **blade** with him.
knife
7. I always seem to have a **blimp** sitting next to me when I travel.
very fat person
8. I'm going to **blow out of here** now.
leave
9. He **blew** all his money gambling.
Lost
10. Hey, don't **blow a fuse**.
lose your temper
11. Calm down. Don't **blow your cool**.
become angry
12. I was **blown away** by his donation of a million dollars.
greatly impressed
13. The movie was a **bomb**.
Bad
14. The driver of the car was **bombed**.
Intoxicated
15. I think I am going **bonkers**.
Crazy

Now make your own sentences using the following slangs:

1. **Big guns** :
2. **Have a big mouth** :
3. **Blade** :
4. **Blow a fuse** :
5. **Blown away** :
6. **Bonkers** :

See the following set of American slangs. You will get ten minutes for ten questions:

1. If you make another **boo-boo** like that, you won't have a job.
Mistake
2. I promised to bring two bottles of **booze** to the party.
Alcohol
3. I need some **bread** to pay for my car.
Money
4. A lucky **break** helped him get the job.
5. **Break it up**, or I will call the police.
Stop
6. The news of the airplane crash was a **bring-down**.
Depressing
7. Do you have a **buck** I can borrow?
Dollar
8. I was really **bummed** after I heard the news.
Depressed
9. My trip to New York was a **bummer**.
Bad experience
10. The whole idea was a **bust**.
Failure
11. If you don't slow down, you're going to **buy it** in a car accident.
Die
12. The weatherman made a good **call** about when the storm would come.
Prediction
13. Do you know where the **can** is?
Bathroom

14. My motorcycle's **carb** is out of adjustment.

Carburetor

15. I'm going to lie on the beach and **catch some rays**.

Get some sunshine

Now make your own sentences using the following slangs:

1. **Booze** :

2. **Break it up** :

3. **Bummed** :

4. **Buy it** :

5. **Call** :

6. **Catch some rays** :

See the following set of American slangs. You will get ten minutes for ten questions:

1. I need to **catch some Z's** before I go on my trip.

Get some sleep

2. That is really a **cheesy** looking outfit.

Cheap

3. Don't be a **chicken**.

Coward

4. That really was a **chintzy** present you got him.

cheap

5. I need to find a place to **chow down**.

eat a lot

6. Watch out or they will **clip** you at that bar.

Cheat

7. I can't go on a date in that **clunker**.

old car

8. My date for the dance was a **cold fish**.

Dull

9. I knew they would **collar** the robber sooner or later.

Arrest

10. He has to **come up for air** or he will die from exhaustion.

take a break

11. Don't try to **con** me.

deceive

12. This is a really **cool** place to work.

Good

13. Things should **cool down** in a day or two.

calm down

14. How did you get the road sign? I **copped** it.

Stole

15. The **cop** showed me his badge.

policeman

Now make your own sentences using the following slangs:

1. **Cheesy** :

2. **Chintzy** :

3. **Clunker** :

4. **A cold fish** :

5. **Con** :

6. **Copped** :

See the following set of American slangs. You will get ten minutes for ten questions:

1. He is a **couch potato**.

lazy person

2. Let's **crack open a bottle** for his birthday.

open

3. I need more time to **cram** for the test.

study hard

4. Our tam **creamed** them badly.

Beat

5. I feel like I am going to **croak**.

Die

6. The skier was **cruising** down the hill.

going very fast

7. He put the **cuffs** on the killer.

Handcuffs

8. He has a really **cushy** job.

Easy

9. Could you **cut** my whiskey with a little water?

dilute

10. It is late. I have to **cut out**.

Leave

11. Lets get the bill and find out the **damage**.

Cost

12. This disco is really **dead** tonight.

Quiet

13. He was **decked** in the fight.

knocked out

14. Her boyfriend **has deep pockets**.

Is a good source of money

15. Since the weather is a little **dicey**, I won't go today.

chancy

Now make your own sentences using the following slangs:

1. **Crack open a bottle :**
2. **Creamed :**
3. **Cruising :**
4. **Cut out :**
5. **Decked :**
6. **Dicey :**

See the following set of American slangs. You will get ten minutes for ten questions:

1. I hear that it's a **dirty** movie.

an obscene

2. I'll **ditch** my younger brother with my grandmother.

Leave

3. Don't try to **do a snow job on** me.

Deceive

4. He is such a **dope**.

stupid person

5. There are a lot of **dope** dealers around here.

Drug

6. He is such a **dork**.
strange person
7. I need some **dough** before I can go Christmas shopping.
Money
8. Let's go to a bar and **down** a few beers.
drink quickly
9. Doing homework on the weekend is a **drag**.
Boring
10. This drink is really **dynamite**.
powerful; great
11. My grandmother gave me **an earful** about the neighborhood.
a lot of gossip
12. The Japanese are **an easy mark** because they usually carry cash.
likely victims
13. The problem is really **eating away at** me.
Bothering
14. That's **excellent** man.
Fine
15. The two sides were headed for a nasty **face-off**.
confrontation

Now make your own sentences using the following slangs:

1. **Ditch** :
2. **Do a snow job on** :
3. **A drag** :
4. **An earful** :
5. **Eating away** :
6. **Face-off** :