BRITISH AND AMERICAN ENGLISH DIFFERENCES

PICTIONARY LISTS

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British & American English

**British**

**American**

the Plough

the Big Dipper

/həʊlədər/

/vərˈkeɪʃən/

dichter

dichter

/ˈɔːtəm/

/ˈfaːl/ /ˈɑːtəm/

high street

main street

/hɑːstriːt/ /ˈmeɪn ˈstriːt/
British & American English

- British: courgette
  - American: zucchini /ˈzuːkəni/

- British: aubergine
  - American: eggplant /ˈɛɡˌplænt/

- British: jacket potato
  - American: baked potato /ˈbeɪkt pəˈteɪ.tɔʊ/

- British: runner bean
  - American: string bean /ˈstrɪŋ ˈbɪ.n/
British & American English

British
- trainers
- jumper
- pullover
- waistcoat
- braces

American
- sneakers
- sweater
- vest
- suspenders
British & American English

spelling: OU vs. O

**British**

arbour
/əˈbɔːr/  

humour
/hjuːˈmaə(r)/

harbour
/ˈhaːbə(r)/

enamoured
/ɪˈnæmərd/

**American**

arbor
/əˈbɑːr/  

humor
/ˈhjuːmər/

harbor
/ˈhɑːbər/

enamored
/ɪˈnæmərd/

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British & American English

**spelling**

**British**

aluminium /ˌælˈjəmɪnɪəm/

moustache /ˈmʌstəʃ/  

speciality /ˈspɛʃəlɪtɪ/ 

mummy /ˈmʌmi/ 

**American**

aluminum /əˈljuːmən/ 

mustache /ˈmʌʃtəʃ/  

specialty /ˈspɛʃəlti/ 

mommy /ˈmaːmi/ 

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British & American English

British

anticlockwise
/ˌæntiˈklokwaɪz/

clockwise
/ˈklaʊkwaɪz/

noughts and crosses
/ˈnɒts ænd ˈkrɒsɪz/
tic-tac-toe
/ˈtɪk,tækˈtou/​
clothes peg
/ˈkлюdʒ pɛɡ/​
clothespin
/ˈklouz,pɪn/​
tea towel / tea cloth
/tiː ˈtəʊəl/​
dish towel
/ˈdɪʃ ˈtəʊəl/
British & American English

British

- diversion /dərˈvəʊn/  
- flyover /ˈflaɪəvə(r)/  
- lorry /ˈlɒri/  
- road surface /rəʊd sɔːfəs/  

American

- detour /ˈdiːˌtuər/  
- overpass /ˌoʊvərˈpæs/  
- truck /ˈtrʌk/  
- pavement /ˈpərvmənt/  

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British & American English

**British**

- bonnet /ˈbɒnɪt/
- boot /buːt/
- windscreen /ˈwɪndskrɪːn/
- indicator /ˈɪndɪkeɪtə(r)/
- tyre /ˈtaɪə(r)/

**American**

- hood /ˈhʌd/ (hoood)
- trunk /ˈtrʌŋk/ (trunk)
- windshield /ˈwɪndʃiːld/ (windshield)
- blinker (turn signal) /ˈbliŋkə/ (blinker)
- tire /ˈtaiə(r)/ (tire)
British & American English

Spelling Differences

British
- odour
- pyjamas
- programme
- parlour
- apologise

American
- odor
- pajamas
- program
- parlor
- apologize
British & American English
Spelling Differences

British

behaviour
neighbour
favourite
humour
rumour

American

behavior
neighbor
favorite
humor
rumor
British & American English
Spelling Differences

British
kerb
plough
mould
liquorice
cosy

American
curb
plow
mold
licorice
cozy
British & American English

British

block of flats
/ˈblɒk əv flæts/

flat
/flæt/

ground floor
/ˈɡraʊnd flɔːr/

American

apartment building
/ˈæpərtməntˈbɪldɪŋ/

apartment
/ˈæpərtmənt/

first floor / ground floor
/ˈfɜːst flɔːr/

second floor
/ˈsɛkənd flɔːr/
British & American English

British:
- zed /ˈzɛd/
- full stop /ˈful stɒp/
- nought/zero /ˈnɔːt/  
- postal code /ˈpəʊstl kɔːd/

American:
- zee /ˈziː/
- period /ˈpəriːd/  
- zero /ˈziːrəʊ/ 
- zip code /ˈzip ˈkɔːd/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>British</th>
<th>American</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>colour</td>
<td>color</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aeroplane</td>
<td>airplane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cheque</td>
<td>check</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>theatre</td>
<td>theater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grey</td>
<td>gray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British</td>
<td>American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>takeaway</td>
<td>takeout</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ˈteɪkə,weɪ/</td>
<td>/ˈteɪk,aʊt/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>food prepared and cooked in a restaurant and taken by the customer (to eat somewhere else)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>timetable</td>
<td>schedule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ˈtaɪm,teɪbəl/</td>
<td>/ˈskɛ,ʃuːl/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a list of the times when something (e.g. bus, train, or airplane) is expected to leave or arrive</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rubber</td>
<td>eraser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ˈrʌbə/</td>
<td>/ˈɪrəsə/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a small piece of rubber that is used to erase something that has been written or drawn</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>post</td>
<td>mail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ˈpəʊst/</td>
<td>/ˈmeɪl/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a system of sending letters and packages from one person to another</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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American English at State

americanenglish.state.gov
British & American English

**British**
- torch /ˈtɔːtʃ/  
- mobile phone /ˈmɔːbl feɪn/  
- rubbish /ˈrʌb.ɪʃ/  
- bin /bɪn/

**American**
- flashlight /ˈflæʃ,laɪt/  
- cell phone /ˈsɛl ˈfɔʊn/  
- garbage (trash) /ˈgæbɪdʒ/  
- trash can /ˈtræʃ ˈkæn/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>British</th>
<th>American</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nappy</td>
<td>diaper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ˈnæpi/</td>
<td>/ˈdaɪpə/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dummy</td>
<td>pacifier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ˈdʌmi/</td>
<td>/ˈpæsəˌfæja/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>loo</td>
<td>restroom (bathroom)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/lu:/</td>
<td>/ˈrɛstˌruːm/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>telly</td>
<td>TV (television)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ˈteli/</td>
<td>/ˈtiːˈviː/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
British & American English

British
underground
/ˌʌndəˈɡraʊnd/

American
subway
/ˈsʌb,weɪ/

British
chemist's
/ˈkem.ɪsts/

American
drugstore / pharmacy
/ˈdrʌg,stɔːr/ /ˈfɑːməsi/

British
phone box
/ˈfʌn,ˈbaːks/

American
phone booth
/ˈfʌn,ˈbuːθ/

British
queue
/ˈkjuː/

American
line
/ˈlaɪn/
British & American English

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>British</th>
<th>American</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>chips</td>
<td>french fries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crisps</td>
<td>potato chips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>biscuit</td>
<td>cookie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>peckish</td>
<td>hungry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British</td>
<td>American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sweets</td>
<td>candy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>candy floss</td>
<td>cotton candy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ice lolly</td>
<td>popsicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>treacle</td>
<td>molasses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British</td>
<td>American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>motorway</td>
<td>highway (freeway, expressway)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pavement</td>
<td>sidewalk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zebra crossing</td>
<td>crosswalk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>road surface</td>
<td>pavement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
British & American English

British
lorry

American
truck
/ˈtræk/

British
estate car

American
station wagon
/ˈsteɪʃən ˈwɑɡən/

British
flat

American
apartment
/əˈpɑːrtmənt/

British
lift

American
elevator
/ˈeləvətər/

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American English at State
americ seamlessato.gov
British & American English

- British: car park
  - American: parking lot  [ˈpar.kɪŋˌlɒt]

- British: bonnet
  - American: hood  [hʊd]

- British: boot
  - American: trunk  [trʌŋk]

- British: petrol
  - American: gas  [ɡæs]