



# The Peerian Journal

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## Vocabulary Differences

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**Annotation:** There are some words that exist in American English and British English, but they differ in meaning and usage. An American **geezer** means (elderly person), but this word means (a person of any age, typically male, who might be one's buddy or a person one thinks is 'cool') in British. Another example is an American house **homely** means (plain or ugly), on contrary, in the British Version, this word has (cozy, comfortable) meaning.

**Keywords:** homely, version, buddy, word, contrary, **geezer** means, differ.

One of the very common words is **football**, across Europe and other countries around the world this word '**football**' refers to the sport with the ball kicked by foot across a big field. But, Americans call this game **soccer**. **Football** is an entirely different sport or game played by throwing an oval-shaped ball in laces in the United States. These kinds of vocabulary differences are vital issues in distinguishing differences between British English and American English.

However, the above issues can make challenges for those who travel to these countries. But some spelling differences do not make more challenges; words like "color" and "favorite" in American English are spelled "colour" and "favourite" in other parts of the world, like Great Britain, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, because they entered the English language through the word's original French roots and did not get revised spelling in early American history. These colloquial terms are quite understandable and have the same meaning.

Having enough vocabulary helps language learners to speak fluently, whenever, you are lack vocabulary and it is very hard to understand the speaker. American and British English vocabulary differences are almost tricky and challenging. Sometimes, people of the USA and Britain convey the same thing or issue by using different words. This issue is not easy for none native or English language learners to distinguish.

Truly, there are many such cases in these varieties. I was assigned some questions in my questionnaire form like 'How many words are different between American English and British English?', 'How many words do you remember?' and 'How many words can you write?' The answer to the first question was what I was expecting to get. It was written like 'it is very hard to mention the exact number of these words.' Actually, the fact is that it is not easy to determine the exact number of words.

Two remaining questions were including some words indicating the vocabulary differences between British and American English and they are as below



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American English	British English
Soda	fizzy drink
Vacation	Holiday
Hood	bonnet (the front of the car)
Truck	Lorry
Cookie	Biscuit
Sweater	Jumper
Trunk	boot (the back of the car)
French fries	Chips
Sneakers	Trainers
Mailbox	Postbox
Pants	Trousers
Apartment	Flat
College	University
Chips	Crisps

There were many other vocabularies that I did not list and the participants of this online questionnaire were complimenting me for recalling some words, which were almost forgotten.

As an experienced translator, he was dictating that these differences of varieties should always be used by the translator in your English translations. In language translation, such differences really matter and affect our translation quality. Professional and experienced translators always keep in their mind to use a single variety for their target language, which is obviously English language.

It is necessary for every translator to have knowledge of these varieties and remark these issues while translating documents. The qualities of translated materials are considered remarking such varieties too.

## American and British Date Differences

However, there are different formats of writing dates and they are used in all formats. But there are some most confusing things between American and British people. American people use this **MM/DD/YY** format, meaning that Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra was born on **September 29, 1547 (09/29/1547)**.

On the other hand, the British people use a different format like **DD/MM/YY**, meaning that Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra was born on **29 September 1547 (29/09/1547)**. Moreover, we are free to use dots instead of forwarding slashes in British English. People around the world use different formats and some people give value to using what is regularly used in their country.

## American and British Differences in Time

When we talk about the time we always remind ourselves about **Military Time**. American, British people, and other European citizens mostly use 12-hour clock, whereas using '24-hours' is uncommon and this timing is predominantly used by the military, police, aviation staff. American mostly uses colons when telling time, whereas the British often use the full stop or dots. This means



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that the format for British people is 8.00, whereas the format for American people is different and it is like 8:00 AM.

## British and American Slangs and Colloquialisms

I have asked one of the professors in the English department of Balkh University whose Master's degree was from the United States of America about the differences between British and American English and explained me briefly and clearly. One thing that was very interesting in his conversation was that was an informal English speaker. The differences between British and American colloquialisms and slang were his key point. He told me that slangs are different even among cities in the US. You can hear slang in a city, whereas you do not in another city.

Considering his words, I researched accordingly and I found that slangs are different in different cities and counties as well. This slang is mostly used among regular people. I have found a table of slang where you can clearly consider the differences between British and American slang.

Standard word	American Colloquialism	British Colloquialism
Friend	Homier	mate, fame
Tired	Beat	knackered, shattered
Drunk	wasted, trashed	hammered, battered
police officer	Cop	copper, bobby
Angry	Pissed	pissed off
Pleased	Stoked	Chuffed
Mouth	Pie hole	Cakehole
House	Crib	Gaff
Excited	hyped, amped	Buzzing
share the bill (BrE) / check (AmE)	go Dutch	split the bill

## Christmas Vocabulary

Talking about holidays mostly gets the interest of ready and I would like to talk about some Christmas and Winter holidays which help the reader to understand the nature of the all these differences because language always reflects the state of our world and particularly our social and cultural relations.

There are many same cultures and traditions among close tribes and the holidays are almost similar, but the performing procedures are different, the words, slangs or expressions are different, the celebrating words are different. For example, in the US, you may hear **Santa Claus** bring gifts, whereas, in the British, you may hear **Father Christmas**. The former lives in **the North Pole**, and the latter has his workshop in **Lapland**. At that time of the year, when you take a walkthrough,



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let's say, Birmingham, you'll be greeted with "Happy Christmas". But that won't happen in Austin, where you'll only hear "Merry Christmas" or "Happy Holidays".

## American and British differences in monetary values:

American and Britain's people have different kinds of a deal among each other and they mostly travel for different purposes. However, they have different currencies, but there are some famous and frequently used colloquial terms and it is very hard for non-natives to understand these terms.

The colloquial term for the US is *dollar* which is shown by this sign (\$), these are sometimes referred to as **bucks**. While the colloquial term for the British **pound** (£) is **quid**. These are not the only differences and there are some other colloquial terms for the money less than 1 dollar or pound. Americans usually use the word **nickel** for 5 cents, **dime** for 10 cents, and a **quarter** for 25 cents. While the British people call coins smaller than £1 **pence**.

Amount	American English	British English
\$/£1.70	a dollar seventy	one pound seventy
\$/£8.60	eight-sixty eight dollars <b>and</b> sixty cents	eight-sixty eight pounds sixty

These things become even more complicated when discussing larger amounts of money but here are the clear rules.

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