

The background features a stylized American flag pattern. The top-left corner is a dark blue field with a grid of white stars. The bottom-left corner is a solid red field. The rest of the background is white. A diagonal white banner cuts across the image from the bottom-left towards the top-right.

**A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO
AMERICAN ENGLISH**

Hello.

Dear friend!

Have u ever travelled or traveled to the US? Du u no how to rite it rite? So, if u r interested, u r on the rite way!

Here's a guide to u.

And, btw, would u love to have an e-pal?



AmE vs. BrE – Differences

- ❑ Spelling;
- ❑ Pronunciation;
- ❑ Vocabulary;
- ❑ Grammar.



- ❑ Regular differences: **centre** (BrE) – **center** (AmE), **theatre** – **theater**, **colour** - **color**, **catalogue** – **catalog**, **honour** – **honor**, **favourite** – **favorite**, **cheque** – **check**, **prison** – **jail** and others ([to know more, go here](#)).
- ❑ Deviant spelling (deviation from the norm): **'They're finger-lickin' good'**.
- ❑ Accurate pronunciation of the word (formal and informal speech): **night - nite**, **through – thru**, **right – rite** ([to know more, go here](#)).



Pronunciation

- ❑ AmE pronounces the final /r / - are you /a:r ju:/: are easy / a:r i:zi/;
BrE says the final /r/ before vowels (vocalization) – are easy / a:r i:zi/;
- ❑ individual differences: **ate** - /eit/ AmE – /aet/ BrE, **schedule** – /ˈskedʒuəl/ - /ˈʃedju:l/;
- ❑ **long** and **short** pronunciation of the letter **A**: **ask** - /aesk/
AmE – /a: sk/ BrE
- ❑ word stress in endings: **-ary/-ory** : secretary AmE –
secretary BrE, laboratory – laboratory , inquiry – inquiry;
-et: ballet – ballet, cigarette – cigarette, valet – valet;
and other: magazine – magazine, moustache –
moustache, premier – premier, princess – princess,
weekend – weekend ([to know more, go here](#)).



- ❑ Some words are only in AmE, others - only in BrE (**congress** AmE - **parliament** BrE, **apartment** – **flat**, **cub** – **taxi**, **candy** – **sweets**, **elevator** – **lift**, **fall** – **autumn**, **mail** – **post**, **canteen** – **cafeteria**, **vacation** - **holiday**); some words are unambiguous (**checking account** - **current account**) ([to know more, go here](#)).
- ❑ Some words have one value from the WSE and more additional values (**caravan** «refers to a group of travelers in the desert" in both versions, in BrE it means **vehicle**, in AmE – **trailer**, **van**). Both variants have the word **undertaker**, but AmE has also the word **mortician**.
 - ❑ Lexical differences in the **car terminology** (**gas** (**gasoline**) AmE –**petrol** BrE; **automobile** – **car**; **gas pedal** – **accelerator**; **hood** – **bonnet**; **tire** – **tyre**; **truck** – **lorry**; **trunk** – **boot**; **windshield** - **wind-screen**) ([to know more, go here](#));
 - ❑ Idioms have different meaning. ‘**The play was a real bomb**’ AmE =‘**a total disaster**’ – BrE= ‘**a huge success**’.



Grammar Expert



Grammar

- Irregular verbs – **burned** (AmE) - **burnt** (BrE), **get, got, gotten** - **get, got, got**;
- Possession phrase - **Do you have the time?** - **Have you got the time?**; responses are different (**I don't** - **I haven't**);
- AmE uses Past Simple where BrE uses Present Perfect (**I just ate** - **I have just eaten**);
- In AmE **will / won't** substitute **shall / shan't**;
- The word order in the noun phrase is different (**Hudson River** - **River Thames**, **a half hour** - **half an hour**);

- AmE prefers **was** (**I wish she was here** - **I wish she were here**);
- adverbs (**I'll go momentarily** - **I'll go in a moment**, **real good** - **really good**, **backward** - **backwards**);
- Parallel excuses (**They live on X street** - **they live in X street**; **I'll see you over the weekend** - **I'll see you at the weekend**; **Monday through Friday** - **Monday to Friday inclusive**).



PRACTISE OR PRACTICE?

- ❑ [http://esl.about.com/library/vocabulary/blbritam.htm;](http://esl.about.com/library/vocabulary/blbritam.htm)
- ❑ <http://esl.about.com/od/grammarlessons/a/chant17.htm>
- ❑ [http://esl.about.com/od/grammarlessons/a/chant18.htm;](http://esl.about.com/od/grammarlessons/a/chant18.htm)
- ❑ [http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/how/how-understand-differences-between-british-and-american-english.](http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/how/how-understand-differences-between-british-and-american-english)



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