

Verbal Misunderstanding

Some American words are simply unknown on the other side of the Atlantic, and vice versa. But a lot of words exist in both variants, and these can cause trouble.

What shall we wear?

- » British American
- » Trousers Pants
- » Pants underwear
- » Jumper sweater
- » Trainers sneakers
- » Dressing gown bathrobe
- » Tights pantyhose.

The opposites

The misunderstanding is worse when a word means the opposite in the two variants. One American author was distressed when his British publisher told him on the telephone that his latest book was a bomb in Britain. In America to 'bomb' – it is not normally used as a noun – is to flop.

Understatement and realism.

- | • English statement | American realism |
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| • I suppose this meat could perhaps be a little more tender. | This meat is as tough as old boots |
| • Our hotel room was not exactly the Ritz | The room was awful. |
| • His speech could have been a little more interesting | The was the duller speech I've ever heard. |

Harry Potter dictionary

When the Harry Potter books were edited for American readers some changes were made in J.K. Rowling's original text. Here are some of them.

• British edition	American edition
• Philosopher's Stone	Sorcerer's Stone
• Toilet	Bathroom
• Wardrobe	Closet
• Cooker	Stove
• Motorbike	Motorcycle
• Cine-camera	Video camera
• Football	Soccer
• Sherbet lemon	Lemon drop
• Ice lolly	Ice pop
• Jacket potato	Baked potato
• Sweets	Candy
• Puddings	Desserts
• Biscuits	Cookies
• Holiday	Vacation
• Post	Mail
• Mad	Crazy