

## 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                            |
|--|---|
| • 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 dullest 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            |