



World Englishes

Variants of English



Australian English

- Divergence of Australian English from BrE can be dated back to 1788 when the first penal colony for British convicts was set up. They spoke mostly Cockney. In 1827 when the speech of Australian residents was described, strong Cockney impact was noticed.



Australian English

- During Australian gold rushes in the 1850s Australian English borrowed increasingly from external sources.
- Americanization of Australian English occurred during massive influx of American troops during WWII and increased later in the 1950s due to television, movies and mass media.



Australian English

- Australian English has a lot in common with New Zealand English, however the difference is obvious to a speaker from either country.
- Australian Corpus of English



Australian English

- British spelling prevails, correlation of British and American spelling in 3:1 (-ise VS ize)
- There is some influence of Hiberno-English as many people are of Irish descent. Irish impact is seen in the use of me instead of my: *What's me hat?*



Australian English

- Some words in Australian English are unique like *bush* – remote, sparsely-populated areas.
- Some elements from Aboriginal languages (places, flora, fauna) were incorporated like *kangaroo*.



Australian English.

Regional Vocabulary

Pork products are known

- in South Australia as *fritz*
- In Victoria as *stras*
- In New South Wales as *devon,*
- In Western Australia as *polony*
- In Queensland as *windsor*
- In Tasmania as *belgium*



Australian English. Intonation

- Stereotypically Australians have a rising tone/ questioning intonation known as high rising terminal.
- There are lots of regional patterns



Australian English as a sociolinguistic phenomenon

- Broad Australian English
- General Australian English
- Cultivated Australian English



Australian English

- Cultivated Australian English (CAE) is similar to RP. 3 -10 % population speak CAE. Common among public figures.
- People speaking CAE are ridiculed as aloof, snobby, affected.



Australian English

- General Australian English - stereotype of Australian English, the language of movies & TV.
- Broad Australian English is a recognizable variety due to accent, known for long diphthongs and nasal drawl.



Australian English

Diminutives which end in –ie or – o:

- Abo – aborigine
- Arvo – afternoon
- Doco – documentary
- Servo - service station/ petrol station
- Bottle- o - liquor store
- Rego /dz/ - vehicle registration



Australian English

Diminutives which end in –ie or – o:

- Compo – compensation
- Leso/ lesbo - lesbian
- Ambo – ambulance
- Filo – Filipino Americans



Australian English

Diminutives which end in –ie or – o:

- Barbie – barbecue
- Bikkie – biscuit
- Bikie - bycycle
- Brekkie - breakfast
- Brickie – brick layer
- Mozzie - mosquito



Australian English

Humour

- Inherited from Britain and Ireland is deadpan humour when a person makes extravagant, outrageous or ridiculous statements in a neutral tone, indicating it is humour. Tourists might be told jokes about kangaroos hopping across the Sydney Harbour Bridge.



Australian English

Due to caricaturised over-use some Australian phrases dropped out of use.



"Wogspeak"

- The term “wog” was originally a derogatory term for migrants to Australia from non-Anglo-Celtic countries (particularly Southern and Eastern Europe).
- It has in recent years been refigured as a term used by those groups for themselves, and for them marks the solidarity in their common experiences of migration under less than ideal circumstances.



"Wogspeak"

- The variety referred to as "wogspeak," is also referred to as "New Australian English" (NAusE).
- It is thus clearly as much a social and ideological construct as a linguistic one.



New Zealand English

- NewZild = New Zealand English
- NZ= New Zealand



New Zealand English

- Influence of Australian English, of Maori speech.
- Some traits of old dialects of low-class English of the 19th c. survived in NewZild
- Wellington Corpus of New Zealand English



NewZild

- Major difference with Australian English is flattened /i/:
- pan → pen, pen → pin, pin → pun.
- Bull /buwd/ , milk /muwk/



NewZild

- British spelling is found universally in New Zealand
- *-ise* is used exclusively
- But American spelling creeps: *through*
→ *thru*

Maori impact

- in flora & fauna (kiwi - a bird, a NZ-er)
- Community consultation
- Health, education
- government

Maori impact

- Kia ora = be healthy/ hello, greeting
- Haere ra = goodbye
- Kia kaha - be strong/ moral support
- Makariri nē? = cold isn't it?/ greeting in the morning

Maori impact

- Nē – isn't it?
- Half-pai (pai – means good) = half standard



NewZild vocabulary

- Super – old age pension scheme
- Sweet as - fine with me
- Choice! = excellent idea
- Cuzzie bro – close friend
- Flatting = sharing a flat
- Flash – stylish, expensive
- Fulla – guy, taken from fella, fellow



NewZild

- Hard case- a person with a good sense of humour
- Scarfie – a university student
- Bring a plate = ads of self catering
- Box of Birds, Box of Bees – feel very good
- Having you on = pull sb's leg



Indian English

- British English and Scottish English are taught, the latter influenced Indian English with rhoticity and thrilled -r-.
- RP is encouraged and promoted
- Indian English has established itself as an audible distinct dialect with specific phrases



Indian English

- Obsolete forms of English, antiquated phrases which were fashionable 50 years ago
- Indian English is an object of jokes due to ruined Grammar



Indian English

- BrE is popular with older generations, AmE – with younger, there are debates about variant to be adopted:
- 70% BBC English,
- 10% General American English,
- 17% Indian English



Indian English

- AmE grows popular due to TV, pop-culture, visits to the USA
- AmE dominates within academic, technical publications, mass media



Indian English

- /v/ < > /W/
- Impact of Bengali, Hindi, Tamil → Benglish, Hindish, Tanglish



Indian English. Grammar

- Progressive tense in stative verbs :

I' m understanding, He is knowing the answer

- Variation in number: *he likes to pull your legs*
- Prepositions – *to pay your attention on, discuss about*



Indian English. Grammar

- Tag questions: isn't it ? / no? in general questions; He's here, no?
- Word order: They're late always. My all friends are waiting. Yes, I didn't.
- Past tense form: I had gone = I went



Indian English. Grammar

- But & only as intensifiers: I was just joking but.
- Open/ close = turn on/off
- Overuse of words *actually, basically, obviously* in the beginning of the sentence



Indian English. Grammar

- Overuse of the word *different*: We had gone to different different places.
- Omission of the article: Let's to _____city



Indian English. Vocabulary

- Your good name please? = what's your name?
- Deadly = intensive (That movie is deadly)
- Hi-fi = stylish (Your shoes are hi-fi)
- Sexy = excellent & extremely cool (That's a sexy car)



Indian English. Vocabulary

- Hello! What do you want? = in telephone conversations
- Back = ago : I met him 5 years back
- Mr/ Mrs as common nouns: My Mrs is not feeling well
- Uncle/ aunt to refer to someone significantly older



Indian English. Vocabulary

- Repair = of a broken object: The TV became repair
- Healthy = to refer to fat people
- Dress - to refer to any clothes for men/ women/ children
- *Bath* and *bathe* are interchangeable



Indian English. Vocabulary

Interjections

- High-end-= of very high quality
(sarcastically of work and people)
- Oof! = distress & frustration
- arey! Acchha! = to express range of emotions



Indian English

- Words from India in English
- Jungle, bungalow, banana, pajamas, guru, shampoo



Canadian English

- traditionally described as a mix of British and American features,
- with the balance between the two varying by region, by generation (an ongoing Americanization has been observed among the young),
- pronunciation base is strongly American,
- the British component is more clearly visible in some vocabulary items



Canadian English

- Many words known as americanisms are also found in Canada



Canadian English

- Newfoundland
- Eastern Canadian
- Quebec
- Central / Western
- Ottawa Valley Twang



Canadian English/ Newfoundland

- Elements from European Languages of 15-17th centuries non-existent in Europe. Spanish, French, Irish, English
- Spoken very quickly, not intelligible for non-local people



Canadian English/ Eastern

- Close to Am E, considered as Canadian English in the USA



Canadian English/ Quebec

- Strong French accent,
- Throaty sounds



Canadian English/ western

- 60% population
- close to northern US accents



Canadian English/ Ottawa

- 1.3 million people
- Impact of Scottish and French, Irish



American English

- Northern is not to be confused with political North during the Civil war, historically it is New England
- Southern – coastal areas of Maryland, Virginia, Georgia, Gulf States
- Midland – area extending through all the country



American English

- The Dictionary of American Regional English in 1907
- Linguistic atlas of AmE in 1931
- 1200 people interviewed, 1000 points of usage



American English

- The Dictionary of American Regional English in 1985-1991
- The data from 2700 informants in 1002 communities in 50 states collected between 1965-1970



Some British–American vocabulary differences

- | ■ UK | US | UK | US |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| ■ lift | elevator | pavement | sidewalk |
| ■ boot | trunk | waistcoat | vest |
| ■ Leader | editorial | vest | undershirt |
| ■ bowler (hat) | derby | handbag | purse |
| ■ beetroot | beets | | |
| ■ head teacher | principal | | |
| ■ banknote | bill | | |
| ■ aubergine | eggplant | | |



Some British–American vocabulary differences

- biscuit cookie
- queue line
- flat apartment
- fancy-dress party costume party
- pensioner retiree
- lorry truck
- football soccer
- trousers pants
- crisps potato chips



British and American automobile vocabulary

British

- windscreen
- bonnet
- wing
- quarterlight
- boot
- indicator
- hazard
- running lights
- Tyre

American

windshield
hood
fender
wing
trunk
turn signal
lights flashers
parking lights
tire



American coinages

- **Among the countless American coinages are these:**
- radio, disc jockey, waterfront, right away, get along with, fall for, make the grade, get around to, babysitter, boyfriend and girlfriend, knowhow, in the red, hitchhike, show business, merger, publicity, executive, hindsight, commuter etc.



British VS American English

1. Sing/ Plural coordination

BrE The team is .../AmE The team are

2. Past Simple in AmE with words already, just, yet

3. Get –passive is more common in AmE



British VS American English

4. Subjunctive mood is more common in AmE

BrE He suggested they should apply...

AmE He suggested they_____ apply..

5. Irregular verbs in AmE form past tense forms as regular verbs (learned, leaped, spelled)



BrE VS AmE: grammar

- AmEng: I suggest that Susie take the job.
 - BrEng: I suggest that Susie takes the job.
-
- AmEng: The report recommends that he be promoted.
 - BrEng: The report recommends that he is promoted.



BrE VS AmE: grammar

- AmEng: I suggested that Susie take the job.
- BrEng: I suggested that Susie took the job.

- AmEng: The report recommended that he be promoted.
- BrEng: The report recommended that he was promoted.



British VS American English

6. Usage of prepositions: AmE to meet with someone

Monday to Friday , AmE Monday thru Friday

In Churchill Street, AmE on Churchill Street

7. BrE towardss, backwardss AmE toward



Modern English Grammar: Vision & Terminology

Corpus Linguistics contribution.
Cambridge International Corpus (CIC)

North American English Grammar



- Written grammar displays fewer differences between BrE and AmE than spoken grammar.
- American influence on everyday English grammar is considerable, for example, *like* as a marker of direct speech reporting.



Shall

- *Shall* is infrequent in AmE, they prefer *will or be going to*.
 - *I shall be in the office at 9.30.*
- *Frequency of shall per 1 million words*

■ <i>BrE</i>	<i>AmE</i>
118	16



Shall

- However, AmE allows *shall* in first person interrogatives, especially functioning as suggestions or in semi-fixed expressions:
- *Let's try to find other words, shall we?*
- *How shall we say it?*



must

- *Must* is much more frequent in BrE than in AmE which prefers *have to* to express obligation.
- *Frequency of Must per 1 million words*

■ <i>BrE</i>	<i>AmE</i>
450	151



have got to

- Modal *have got to* is twice more frequent in spoken BrE than AmE.
- Have to (without got) is twice more frequent in AmE.
- *I've got to go and meet my mother at the station.*



Had better

- *Had better* is 6 times more frequent in spoken BrE than AmE.



Be going to

- *Be going to* (and the contracted form *gonna*) are not a characteristic use in BrE, which prefers imperatives in direction-giving:
- *You're gonna to go two blocks and then you're gonna to see a big modern white building... (AmE)*
- *Come to T-junction, turn left. Go down..., you come (BrE)*



guess

- *I guess* is 30 times more frequent in spoken AmE than in BrE where *I suppose*, *I reckon* are more frequent.
- *I reckon we should have more coffee after this* .



Be & Not

- Negated forms are found in both variants, though in AmE stronger preference is observed for *not* in both present and past tense forms:
- *Tim isn't working there any more. (BrE)*
- *Joe is not working there any more. (AmE)*



Have got

- The present tense form of *have* with *got* is more than twice frequent in spoken BrE than AmE:
- *I've got one sister and one brother (BrE)*



Get

- In AmE, get has an –ed participle form gotten, which is not used in BrE:
- *I mean, as poverty has gotten worse, you know, education has gotten worse...*



Ir(regular) verbs

- In AmE, the past tense of *fit* is most often *fit*, while in BrE *fitted*:
- *Jennifer says she never really fit in...*
- *I found a pair of boots that fitted me*



Ir(regular) verbs

- Verbs such as burn, dream, lean, learn, smell, spell, spill often allow a past tense and –ed ending. AmE overwhelmingly prefers –ed ending.



Interrogative tags

- Interrogative tags are around 4 times more frequent in BrE than in AmE:
- *He's brilliant, isn't he?*



copy tags

- In informal contexts, AmE speakers often use an interrogative copy tag with rising intonation in responses involving surprise or emotional involvement:
 - *I changed schools three times*
 - ***You did?***
 - *In one year.*
 - *Wow. Wow.*
- *In BrE **Did you?***



copy tags

- Affirmative copy tags occur in both variants but are much rarer in AmE than in BrE:
- *I think it's really funny that they live together, **I do.** (BrE)*



right?

- The universal tag, *right?* is 4 times more frequent in AmE than in BrE:
- *You lived in Canada, **right?** (AmE)*
- *I was hoping we could change this one, **right?** (BrE)*



Tails

- *Tails* are considerably less common in AmE than in BrE, but they do occur in informal spoken AmE:
- *That was a nightmare, **that one**.* (BrE)
- *He's a scary guy, **that Dan Boland*** (AmE)



Really → real

- In informal spoken AmE, *really* is often used as a modifier of adjectives and other adverbs without the -ly ending. This is sometimes considered non-standard by traditionalists:
 - *We all get along real well.*
 - *They were real nice to us.*



Well, good

- Good is often used in informal spoken AmE where BrE requires well:
- *Hi, how are you doing?*
- *I'm good.*



Present Perfect

- Present Perfect is less frequent in AmE where the tendency is to use Past Simple.



exclamative

- AmE uses some exclamative and intensifying expressions which are not common in BrE: *geez, goddam, oh my gosh*:
- *It was the best tasting **goddam** stuff I've ever eaten in my life.*
- *It's been eighty degrees here.- **Oh my gosh!***



African American English

- Within the last several decades, it has gone through a number of name changes, which include
- *Negro Dialect, Nonstandard Negro English, Black English, Black English Vernacular, Afro-American English, African American (Vernacular) English, African American Language, and Ebonics.*

American English & other languages



- Words which seem to be spreading widely and rapidly include *gas*, *guy(s)*, *Hi*, *movie*, *truck*, *Santa (Claus)*, and *station wagon*, and adolescent slang and fashion terms like *man* as a form of address or *cool* meaning 'very good'.

American English & other languages



- older words which have been internationalized so strongly that their American origin may no longer be recognized in many communities, like *radio* (for older British *wireless*), *commute*, *fan*, *star*, *know-how*, *break even*, or *let's face it*



American English & other languages

- American pronunciations are getting more widespread, e.g.,
- *research* stressed on the first and
- *primarily* on the second syllable,
- *schedule* with /sk-/,
- *lieutenant* with /lu:-/, etc.



American English & other languages

- The spelling *center* is clearly preferred over *centre* outside specifically British spheres of influence, and *program* rather than *programme* is also used widely, not only in computing contexts.



American English & other languages

- American influence can even modify the meaning of words, as in the case of *billion*, which now means 'a thousand million' rather than 'a million million' even in Britain.