



CANADIAN ENGLISH

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ENGLISH AS A MOTHER TONGUE:

19.5 million
speakers

57 % of
population

ENGLISH AS THE FIRST OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:

26 million
speakers

75 % of
population

NORTH AMERICAN SOUNDS

•car // for // where // four // your
// work // ever // party // smart //
after // forever // prefer



center → cenner

“Canadians don’t like ‘t’ – they like coffee”

most → mos

just → jus

must → mus

might → migh (sounds like ‘my’)

interesting → ineresting

c) ‘t’ changes to ‘ch’ (especially when followed by ‘r’)

trip → chrip

travel → chravel

try → chry

attract → achract



SOUND 'O'

- *hot // got // a lot*
// not // top // nod

SOUND 'G'

- *getting → gettin*
- *kidding → kiddin*
- *cutting → cuttin*



-Or and -Our

In Canadian English, people spell words with the -our ending such as colour, labour or favour. American English spells these words color, labor and favor.

One L or Two

Canadian English uses fulfil whereas American English uses fulfill. However, Canadian English will use cancelled, and American English spells it canceled.

-Er and -Re

American English spells words with an -er ending like center or centered and theater, but Canadian English uses the -re version of centre or centred and theatre.

-Que and -Gue

In Canadian English, words generally use the -que and -gue spellings. Canadian English spells words like catalogue and cheque. However, American English uses catalog or check.

In other cases, Canadians and Americans differ from British spelling, such as in the case of nouns like tire and curb, which in British English are spelled tyre and kerb.

Considerations

While Canadian English favors the more traditional British spellings, some British rules are not used in Canada, such as the -ise ending in Britain rather than an -ize ending.



CANADIAN ENGLISH, EH?

- a small set of their own unique vocabulary, which can be called **Canadianisms**
- Canadian English often shows variation in the use of these words, with Canadianisms competing with other words, usually the American variants
- the most popular stereotype of Canadian English is **the word eh**, added to the end of a phrase
- recent research suggests that, at least among younger Canadians, actual use of eh is much less frequent than its popularity as a stereotype would suggest

| Canadian English | American English | British English |
|---|---|---|
| bachelor apartment | efficiency | bedsit |
| Billion - a thousand million (1,000,000,000) | Billion - a thousand million (1,000,000,000) | Billion - a million million (1,000,000,000,000). |
| bus depot | bus station | coach station |
| driver's permit | driver's license | driving licence |
| Elevator | Elevator | Lift |
| fire hall | firehouse | fire station |
| flat tire | flat | flat tyre, puncture |



| Canadian English | American English | British English |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Gas | Gas | petrol |
| main floor | first floor | ground floor |
| phone, call (v) | call | phone |
| Railways | Railroads | Railways |
| University | college | university |
| Vacation | Vacation | Holiday |
| washroom | ladies' room, men's room | Ladies, Gents |
| Z - pronounced zed | Z - pronounced zee | Z - pronounced zed |



Dictionaries and Style Guides

- There were two general-purpose comprehensive dictionaries produced entirely in Canada: first the Gage Canadian Dictionary
- Later the Canadian Oxford Dictionary, now largely used as the standard
- Editing Canadian English
- The Canadian Press Stylebook
- The Canadian Style



THANKS FOR YOUR



ATTENTION!