



# **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<br>(1,000,000,000) | Billion - a thousand million<br>(1,000,000,000) | Billion - a million million<br>(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,<br>puncture                              |



| <b>Canadian English</b> | <b>American English</b>     | <b>British English</b> |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 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,<br>men's room | Ladies, Gents          |
| Z - pronounced<br>zed   | Z - pronounced<br>zee       | Z - pronounced<br>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!**