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SOME SPECIFIC FEATURES OF PRONUNCIATION AND VOCABULARY IN AMERICAN AND BRITISH ENGLISH

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Annotation. The aim of this article is to describe some important features of pronunciation and vocabulary of American and British English as it is the American English variant is studied all over the world. There are two major differences between American and British English. Pronunciation are differences in both vowel and consonants, as well as stress and intonation. Vocabulary are differences in nouns and verbs, especially phrasal verb usage and the names of specific tools or items.

The difference between British and American English include not only pronunciation and vocabulary, but also grammar, spelling, punctuation, idioms formatting of dates and numbers. American English and British English are famous varieties in the world. There are lots of varieties in English, but American English and British English are the most famous, they have lots of differences from each other and these differences make the learner confused. The findings indicate that are many differences between America English and British English including mostly in the aspects of grammar and vocabulary. The differences are not a big deal for native speakers, but they may confuse not-native speakers of English.

Keywords: obligation, exist, level, pronunciation, accent, expression, distribution, obtain, preserve, feature, change, speech, vocabulary, describe, compare, important, development, usage.

The most noticeable difference between American and British English is vocabulary. There is an old saying that American and Britain are two nations divided by a common language.

The official language of Great Britain are taught at school and universities, used by the press, the radio and television and spoken by educated people may be defined as that form of English which is current and literary and recognized as acceptable wherever English is spoken or understood. Its vocabulary is contrasted to dialect words belonging to various local dialects. In Great Britain there are two variants, Scottish English and Irish English, and five main groups of dialects: Northern, Midland, Eastern, Western and Scotland. Now dialects are chiefly preserved in the speech of elderly people.

The variety of English spoken in the USA has received the name of American English. The term variant or variety appears most appropriate for several reasons. American English cannot be called a dialect although it is a regional variety. It has neither grammar nor vocabulary of its own. American English may be defined as a word or a set of expression peculiar to the English language as spoken in the USA. For example, *cookie* 'a biscuit', *frame house* 'a house consisting of timber, with boards or separately laid on'; *frame up* 'a staged'; *guess* 'think'; *store* 'shop'.

The difference between the American and British is not systematic. The American variant of the English language differs from British English in pronunciation, some features of grammar, but mainly in vocabulary. It is necessary to mention that American English is based on the language imported to the new continent at the time of the first settlements. Words which have died out in Britain, or changed their meaning may survive in the USA.

For example, the word *guess* changed for think. For more than three centuries the American vocabulary developed more or less independently and was influenced by the new surroundings. They found the names for the new conditions of economic life: *back-country* 'districts which not thickly

populated', *back-settlement*, *backwoods* 'the forest beyond the cleared country', *backwoodsman*'a dweller in the backwoods'.

Many words borrowed into American English from the Indian dialects or from Spanish not only into British English but also into several other languages and so became international words.

Another big group of peculiarities as compared with the English of Great Britain is caused by some specific features of pronunciation, stress of spelling, such as [æ] for [ɑ:]. For example, *ask*, *dance*, *path*, and others, or [e] for [ei] in such words as *made*, *day*, *take* and some others.

The American spellings is simpler than its British English, in other respects just different. The suffix *-our* is spelled *-or*, so that *armor* and *humor* are the American variants of *armour* and *humour*. *Altho* stands for *although*, *thru* for *through*. For example,

British spelling	American spelling
<i>cosy</i>	<i>cozy</i>
<i>offence</i>	<i>offense</i>
<i>practice</i>	<i>practice</i>
<i>jewellery</i>	<i>jewelry</i>
<i>travelling</i>	<i>traveling</i>
<i>encase</i>	<i>incase</i>

In the course of time with the development of the modern means of tendency of decrease. For example, to contrast the English word *autumn* with the American *fall*, In reality both words are used in both countries, only *autumn* is somewhat more elevated, while in England the word *fall* is used in literature. For example, *spring and fall*, *the fall of the year*.

Many words are used differently in American English and in British English.

For example, *can*, *candy*, *movies*, *suspenders*, *truck* in the USA and *tin*, *sweets*, *pictures*, *braces* and *lorry* in England.

The semantic structure of a partially equivalent word is different. For example, The word *pavement* means in the first place ‘covering of the street or the floor and like made of asphalt, stones or some other material.

The derived meaning use the noun *sidewalk* for this, while *pavement* with them means ‘the roadway’. Equivalent words are different in distribution, The verb *ride* in British English is mostly combined with such nouns as *a horse, a bicycle*, more seldom they say *to ride on a bus*. In American English combinations like *a ride on the train, to ride in a boat* a quite usual.

It sometimes happens that the same word is used American English with some difference emotional and stylistic coloring. For example, *nasty*, is a much milder expression of disapproval in England than in the USA. *Time-table* which occurs in American English changed its place with word *schedule*.

American slang uses a few specific models such as verb stem+*er*: For example, *opener, upper*. The trend to shorten words used to use initial abbreviation is even more pronounced than in the British variant. It is very simple in American English are verbs with postpositive. In American English you never *meet* a man: you *meet up* with him, you do not *study* a subject, but *study up* on it. In British English similar constructions serve to add a new meaning.

With words possessing several structural variants it may happen that some are more frequent in one country and the others in another. For example, *amid* and *toward* are more often used in the USA and *amidst* and *towards* in Great Britain.

A famous humorist G. Mikes in his book “How to Scrape Skies” he gives some examples to show the use of preposition: You must be extremely careful concerning the names of certain articles. If you ask for suspenders in a man’s shop, you receive a pair of braces, if you ask for a pair of pants, you receive a pair of trousers and should you ask for a braces, you receive suspicion look.

In American English a *lift* is called an *elevator*. A *flat* in America is called an apartment; what they call a flat is a puncture in a tyre as the Americans spell it tire. In American flat is a garage where they mend a puncture.

There are hundreds of everyday words that are different. For example, the British call the front of a *bonnet*, while Americans call it hood. Americans go on vacation while the British go on holidays or New Yorkers live in apartments, Londoners live in flats. Most Americans and the Britains can usually guess the meaning through the context of a sentence.

There are few grammatical differences between two varieties of English. Especially collective nouns are singular. For example, staff refers to a group of employers; band refers to a group of musicians; team refers to a group of athletes. But in British English collective nouns can be singular and plural.

For example, The team are playing tonight or The team is playing tonight. Another grammar difference between American and British English relates to auxiliary verbs. Auxiliary verbs also known as helping verbs, they are verbs which help form a grammatical function.

Let's look at the auxiliary verb *shall*. The British sometimes use *shall* to express the future. For example, I shall go to the Institute. Americans know what *shall* means, but rarely use it in conversation. In question form the British might say, "Shall we go now?" while American would probably say, "Should we go now?"

When Americans want to express a lack of obligation, they use the auxiliary verb *do* with negative *not* followed by *need*. For example, You do not need to come to work today. The British drop the auxiliary verb and contact *not* with *need*.

For example, You needn't come to work today. There also some small differences with past tense forms of irregular verbs. The past tense of *learn* for American English is *learned*. British English has the option of *leaned* or

learnt. Americans use the *-ed* at the ending and the British use the *-t* at the end of the verbs. In the Past Participle form the Americans use the *-en* ending for some irregular verbs. For example, an American might say, *I have never gotten cold*, while the British would say, *I have never got a cold*. Americans use both *got* and *gotten* in the Past Participle. The British use only *got*. People in both countries can easily understand both ways, although Britains tend to think of the American way as incorrect.

A disjunctive question is a grammatical form that turns a statement into a question. For example, *The whole situation is unfortunate, isn't it?* Or *You don't like him, do you?*

Many learners are confused about word differences between American and British English. For example,

American English	British English
antenna	aerial
mad	angry
anyplace	anywhere
fall	autumn
bill	banknote
cookie	biscuit
hood	bonnet
trunk	boot
suspenders	braces
thread	cotton
drapes	curtains
vacuum cleaner	hoover

Some words in one dialect may have a completely different meaning. For example, *a boot* to an American is *a pair of shoes*, but to a British English *the boot* refers to the trunk of a car, as in *just getting the luggage out of the boot*. For example,

American English

pharmacy

French fries

highway

trash

British English

chemist

chips

carriageway

dustbin

British English tends to use more intonation in speech. For example, while Americans might say *tomayto*, the British say *tomato*. Americans also tend to stress the first syllable of words, while Britains often stress the second. The typically British feature is the use of a fall-rise intonation on a polite *yes –no* question. This means that a high reach is on the top syllable followed by a sharp fall to low pitch, with a little rise at the end of the phrase.

For example, Did you make any new ‘friends?’

Most English words are spelled the same in American and British English.

Americans tend to pronounce words with more emphasis on the vowels, while the British accent is characterized by the way emphasize consonants and the way they pronounce vowels. British English tend to use more intonation in speech. In American English vowels are generally pronounced more clearly and with a longer duration than in British English.

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