

CORSO DI LAUREA IN GIURISPRUDENZA

Inglese Giuridico 2019-20

Lesson 12 – 12 May 2020

British and American English

British and American English

In usage today, the principal distinction between a broadly recognised 'standard' 'British English' and 'General American' English is above all phonological, i.e. the sound of the language, the accent used, and the way that words are pronounced.

British and American English

However, there are some recognisable and characteristic linguistic differences in:

Grammar

- Use of article
- Verb forms
- Collective Nouns - Concordance
- Use of Prepositions
- Subjunctive forms

Lexis

- Vocabulary
- Spelling
- Word Stress

Grammatical differences

Differences in use of definite articles

British English	American English
She is studying at university. (institutional)	She is studying at the university. (institutional)
He was taken to hospital. (institutional)	He was taken to the hospital. (institutional)
He plays the piano.	He plays piano.
This will change in future. (from now) This will change in the future. (at a later time)	This will change in the future. This will change in the future.
The exhibition will open on June the 16 th /the 16 th of June.	The exhibition will open on June 16 th /June 16.

Grammatical differences

Verb forms and tenses

British English	American English
We have (got) a new car. I have not (got) any money.	We have a new car. I do not have any money.
We have bought a new car.	We have gotten a new car.
Have you done that already (yet)? You missed the train – it has just left. I have lost my book.	Did you do that already (yet)? You missed the train – it just left. I lost my book.
The food smelt good. He dreamt of being famous.	The food smelled good. He dreamed of being famous.

Grammatical differences

Collective Nouns - Concordance

British English	American English
The audience are very knowledgeable.	The audience is very knowledgeable.
The government have a plan.	The government has a plan.
The family live in London.	The family lives in London.
The public support the idea.	The public supports the idea.
The majority agree.	The majority agrees.

Grammatical differences

Use of prepositions

British English	American English
She protested against the decision.	.She protested the decision.
I will write to him	I will write him.
You must fill in the form	You must fill out the form.
We will work from Monday to Friday.	We will work from Monday thru Friday.

Grammatical differences

Subjunctive

British English	American English
I suggest that he goes to London.	I suggest that he go to London.
They asked to hold an enquiry.	They asked that an enquiry be held.
He recommended that she agreed to the plan.	He recommended that she agree the plan.

Lexical differences

Vocabulary

British English	American English
Flat Barrister/solicitor Tin	Apartment Attorney/lawyer Can
Sweet Biscuit Nappy	Candy Cookie Diaper
Lift Autumn Tap Flat tyre (puncture)	Elevator Fall Faucet Flat (tire)
Chips Crisps Rubbish Petrol	(French) fries (Potato) Chips Garbage/Trash Gas

Lexical differences

Vocabulary

British English	American English
Maths Nasty Film	Math Mean Movie
Trousers Railway Toilet/loo	Pants Railroad Restroom/Bathroom
Pavement Trainers Underground	Sidewalk Sneakers Subway
Van/lorry Holiday 'z' zed	Truck Vacation 'z' zee

Lexical differences

Spelling

British English	American English
Analyse/realise/organise Catalogue Centre/theatre	Analyze/realize/organize Catalog Center/theater
Colour/honour/labour Defence Jewellery	Color/honor/labor Defense Jewelry
Programme Tyre Traveller	Program Tire Traveler

Lexical differences

Word Stress

Spelling	British English	American English
Address	/ə 'dres/	/'ædres/
Adult	/'æd.ʌ lt/	/ə 'dʌ lt/
Brochure	/'brə ʊ .ʃ ə r/	/brɒʊ 'ʃ ʊ r/
Cliché	/'kli: .ʃ eɪ /	/kli: 'ʃ eɪ /
Debris	/'debrɪ: /	/də 'brɪ: /
Detail	/'di: teɪ l/	/dɪ 'teɪ l/
Garage	/'g ær.ɑ : ʒ / /-ɪ dʒ /	/g ə 'rɑ : ʒ /
Moustache	/'mə 'stɑ : ʃ /	/'mʌ stæʃ /
Pâté	/'pæt.eɪ /	/pæt'eɪ /