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Differences between British and American English 🇬🇧 🇺🇸



This PDF, written by an experienced English tutor, explores the 10 biggest differences in pronunciation between British and American English.

Whether you're an English language learner or a native speaker, understanding these variations can help you communicate more effectively, improve your pronunciation, and deepen your appreciation for the nuances of the language.



01

The Pronunciation of "R": One of the most noticeable differences between British and American English pronunciation is the way the letter "R" is pronounced. In British English, the letter "R" is often pronounced as a soft, guttural sound, while in American English it is pronounced more distinctly, with the tip of the tongue touching the roof of the mouth.

02

The Pronunciation of "Vowels": Another significant difference between the two dialects is the pronunciation of vowels. In British English, certain vowel sounds tend to be longer and drawn out, while in American English, the same vowels are usually shorter and more pronounced.

03

The Pronunciation of "Th": The pronunciation of the "th" sound is another noticeable difference between British and American English. In British English, the "th" sound is pronounced as a soft "v" or "f" sound, while in American English it is pronounced with the tongue between the teeth.

04

The Pronunciation of "T": The way the letter "T" is pronounced also differs between the two dialects. In British English, the letter "T" is often pronounced more softly, almost as a "d" sound, while in American English, it is pronounced more distinctly, with a clear "t" sound.

05

The Pronunciation of "L": The pronunciation of the letter "L" is another difference between British and American English. In British English, the letter "L" is pronounced with a more distinct "l" sound, while in American English, it is often pronounced more like a "w" sound.

06

The Pronunciation of "Z": The pronunciation of the letter "Z" is another area of difference between British and American English. In British English, the letter "Z" is pronounced as a "zed," while in American English, it is pronounced as a "zee."

07

The Pronunciation of "S": The pronunciation of the letter "S" is another area of difference between the two dialects. In British English, the letter "S" is often pronounced more softly, almost as a "z" sound, while in American English, it is pronounced more distinctly, with a clear "s" sound.

08

The Pronunciation of "A": The pronunciation of the letter "A" is another area of difference between British and American English. In British English, the letter "A" is often pronounced more like the "ah" sound, while in American English, it is pronounced more like the "ay" sound.

09

The Pronunciation of "U": The pronunciation of the letter "U" is another area of difference between British and American English. In British English, the letter "U" is often pronounced more like the "oo" sound, while in American English, it is pronounced more like the "uh" sound.

10

The Pronunciation of "I": The pronunciation of the letter "I" is another difference between British and American English. In British English, the letter "I" is often pronounced more like the "eye" sound, while in American English, it is pronounced more like the "ahy" sound.

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