BRITISH AND AMERICAN ENGLISH

25 conversation questions

1. Are British and American English the same language?
2. Which came first: American English or British English?
3. Is British English superior to American English?
4. How do you think Americans feel about British English?
5. Does American English influence British English? Or is it the other way round/around*?
6. When and where did the 9/11 attacks occur?
7. Which English is considered to be standard: British English or American English?
8. Do people in Europe learn American English or British English at / in* school?
9. Do you know any words that mean different things when British and American speakers say them?
10. Is it possible that Americans and Brits could misunderstand one another due to differences in their varieties of English?
11. Is American grammar different from British grammar?
12. Do you know any verbs that are irregular in British English but regular in American English?
13. Who places commas and full stops/periods* outside quotation marks: Brits or Americans?
14. Which accent do you find easier to understand: American or British?
15. Would you like your accent to be American or British?
16. Do you use American or British spelling (e.g. centre/center*, colour/ color*, criticise/criticize*) ?
17. Which news channel do you prefer, BBC or CNN?
18. Do you take into account the differences between British and American English?
19. Is it OK to mix American and British English?
20. What is your favourite/favorite* variety of English?
21. If you were to move to an English-speaking country, which one would you choose?
22. Is it possible for a non-English speaking person to sound like a native speaker?
23. Which variety of English does your teacher use?
24. Which spelling is correct: grey or gray?
25. Is British culture similar to American culture?

* in American English



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	BRITISH ENGLISH	AMERICAN ENGLISH
1	On September 11, 2001, 19 militants associated with the Islamic extremist group al Qaeda hijacked four airplanes and carried out suicide attacks against targets in the United States. Two of the planes were flown into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, the third plane hit the Pentagon just outside Washington, D.C., and the fourth plane crashed in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.	
9	• wash up - wash the dishes • a jumper - a sweater • a rubber - an eraser • pants - underwear • a vest - an undershirt • a purse - a wallet used esp. by women • football (you kick a ball) • the first floor - above the ground floor • pissed - drunk • gas (neither solid nor liquid)	• wash up - wash your hands • a jumper wants to commit suicide • a rubber (slang) - a condom • pants - trousers • a vest - a waistcoat • a purse - a handbag carried esp. by women • American football (you throw a ball) • the first floor - the floor at ground level • pissed - annoyed • gas - gasoline
11	• I can see / hear / taste (senses) • You needn't pay at once. • get - got - got • My family is/are (collective nouns) • have a shower / a break • talk to somebody • at the weekend • I've got to go. • I have just seen her.	• I see / hear / taste (senses) • You don't need to pay at once. • get - got - gotten • My family is (collective nouns) • take a shower / a break • talk with somebody • on the weekend • I got to go. • I just saw her.
12	• smell - smelt - smelt • spill - spilt - spilt • learn - learnt - learnt • dream - dreamt - dreamt	• smell - smelled - smelled • spill - spilled - spilled • learn - learned - learned • dream - dreamed - dreamed
13	"Economic systems",	"Economic systems,"
16	• -ence (e.g. offence, licence) • -ise (e.g. organise, analyse) • -l- (e.g. enrol, fulfil, skilful) • -ou- (e.g. colour, behaviour, favourite) • -re (e.g. metre, centre) • -y- (e.g. tyre)	• -ense (e.g. offense, license) • -ize (e.g. organize, analyze) • -ll- (e.g. enroll, fulfill, skillful) • -o- (e.g. color, behavior, favorite) • -er (e.g. meter, center) • -i- (e.g. tire)
24		• US usually "gray"



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