

Lesson Plan Episode 04



Cultural differences

Tell students that cultural differences also include vocabulary changes and that the more words we know, the better is our communication.

As the United States and the United Kingdom are the most popular countries when we think about the English language, the lexical differences from the two variants are more commonly found in everyday life.

Some examples are:

taxi/cab, soccer/football, fries/chips, restroom/toilet.

Many other words can also be different in American and British English. To help students have a broader vocabulary and give them meaningful content, show them the following pair of words.

American English

apartment
cookie
movie
pants
sneakers
subway
parking lot
stove
can
candy

British English

flat
biscuit
film
trousers
trainers
underground
car park
cooker
tin
sweet

Do the following activity with students: divide the class in two teams and draw a line on the board to divide it too. Write *American English* on one side and *British English* on the other part. Each group will have a student to represent it, that will run to the board and write the word you say in the correct place. Review the words seen on the video and include the ones from the table above.

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Extension Activity

Ask students what other countries they know that have English as official language. If possible, bring a world map to the classroom and ask them to point to the countries in the map. Tell them that besides the American and British variants, we can have different words with the same meaning in countries like Canada and Australia.

Show students some examples:

American English

first floor
restroom
bus station

fries
candies
pants

British English

ground floor
toilet
coach station

chips
sweets
trousers

Canadian English

main floor
washroom
bus depot

Australian English

crisps
lollies
dacks

To continue the activity, if you wish, students can research other countries and look for different words that have the same meaning in different English-speaking countries.

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Worksheet – Teacher’s Notes

- a. Students will match the words with the same meaning according to the country where they are used.
- b. Explain students that they have to read the words from the box and notice that they are the variants of the same word, but in American and British English. Tell them to read the sentences and check what variant they have to use to complete them. Ask them to choose the correct word from the box and complete the sentences.
- c. Tell students that this activity will check what they already know about the American and British culture or teach them something about it. Ask them to look at the images and say if they are related to the American or British culture. Then say the words and have students repeat them.
- d. Invite students to share their knowledge about the countries. Let them give their opinions and then promote a discussion with the whole class.