

Activity Type

Vocabulary Exercises: gap-fill, word search, matching, binary choice

Focus

American English vs. British English

Aim

To practice American English vs. British English vocabulary.

Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

Level

Pre-intermediate (A2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this British English vs. American English worksheet, students practice common British English words and their American English equivalents.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

First, students complete sentences with British English words from a box.

Exercise A - Answer key

- | | | |
|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. autumn | 5. biscuit | 9. mobile |
| 2. flat | 6. chips | 10. rubbish |
| 3. holiday | 7. bill | 11. trousers |
| 4. lift | 8. film | 12. chemist |

Students then find American English words in a word search that have the same meanings as the British English words and match each American word to the sentence that contains the British word with the same meaning.

Exercise B - Answer key

	P	C	E	L	L	P	H	O	N	E			M		C
	A	H					V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	O
	N	E	L	E	V	A	T	O	R				V		O
	T	C	A	P	A	R	T	M	E	N	T		I		K
	S	K		F	R	E	N	C	H	F	R	I	E	S	I
	D	R	U	G	S	T	O	R	E	T	R	A	S	H	E
F	A	L	L												

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. fall | 5. cookie | 9. cell phone |
| 2. apartment | 6. french fries | 10. trash |
| 3. vacation | 7. check | 11. pants |
| 4. elevator | 8. movie | 12. drugstore |

Next, students complete sentences with words from a box and match each sentence with one on the left that contains the word with the same meaning.

Exercise C - Answer key

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------|----------------|
| a. biscuit, 2 | e. cell phone, 9 | i. fall, 6 |
| b. bills, 5 | f. vacation, 3 | j. elevator, 4 |
| c. flat, 10 | g. movies, 8 | k. pants, 1 |
| d. trash, 12 | h. chemist, 11 | l. chips, 7 |

(continued on the next page)

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Procedure continued

After that, students read the sentences on the left and right and write A next to the sentences that contain an American English word and B next to the sentences that contain a British English word.

Exercise D - Answer key

Sentences on the left

- | | | |
|------|------|-------|
| 1. B | 5. A | 9. B |
| 2. A | 6. B | 10. A |
| 3. B | 7. A | 11. A |
| 4. B | 8. B | 12. B |

Sentences on the right

- | | | |
|------|------|------|
| a. B | e. A | i. A |
| b. B | f. A | j. A |
| c. B | g. A | k. A |
| d. A | h. B | l. B |

Lastly, students complete sentences with the correct word from each word pair. Sentences about America need the American word and sentences about Britain need the British word.

Exercise E - Answer key

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| 1. movies | 4. fall |
| 2. bill | 5. holiday |
| 3. chips | 6. cookie |

A. Complete the sentences with the British English words from the box.

mobile	rubbish	lift	autumn	flat	chemist
trousers	biscuit	holiday	film	chips	bill

- Halloween is a holiday that we celebrate in the
- My is on the sixth floor of a tall building.
- As soon as school finishes, I'm going on to Australia.
- I was too tired to walk upstairs, so I took the
- I have a chocolate with my tea every morning.
- I had a lot of potatoes, so I decided to make
- We can't leave the restaurant until we've paid the
- I watched a scary on television last night.
- Sam spends most of his time talking on his
- Before I go to bed, I'll take out the
- Tom was wearing a new pair of
- I spent a lot of money at the this afternoon.



B. Find American English words in the word search that have the same meanings as the British English words above. Then, match each American word to the sentence that contains the British word with the same meaning.

S	P	C	E	L	L	P	H	O	N	E	R	R	M	R	C
D	A	H	S	A	S	S	V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N	O
X	N	E	L	E	V	A	T	O	R	S	R	R	V	T	O
A	T	C	A	P	A	R	T	M	E	N	T	F	I	R	K
E	S	K	S	F	R	E	N	C	H	F	R	I	E	S	I
C	D	R	U	G	S	T	O	R	E	T	R	A	S	H	E
F	A	L	L	X	Z	C	C	E	R	A	E	W	Y	O	I

- *fall*
-
-
-
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-
-
-
-
-
-

C. Complete each sentence on the right with a word from the box. Then, match each sentence with one on the left that contains the word with the same meaning.

trash	cell phone	pants	vacation	bills	chips
chemist	movies	elevator	biscuit	fall	flat

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. He has three pairs of trousers | a. Emma eats a <i>biscuit</i> at night. |
| 2. I eat a cookie each morning. | b. He always pays in cash. |
| 3. Jon goes on holiday monthly. | c. She shares a with friends. |
| 4. She always takes the lift upstairs. | d. Tom never takes out the |
| 5. Kate paid the check by credit card. | e. Lee never answers his |
| 6. They love the weather in autumn | f. She rarely takes a |
| 7. Matt eats his french fries with salt. | g. They watch at home. |
| 8. She watches films at the cinema. | h. I live next to a |
| 9. Olly likes to talk on his mobile | i. They find the too cold. |
| 10. Paul lives alone in his apartment | j. Miko takes the downstairs. |
| 11. We live above a drugstore | k. Mike has one pair of |
| 12. Ann takes the rubbish out nightly. | l. He never puts salt on his |

D. Now, write A next to the sentences above that contain an American English word and B next to the sentences that contain a British English word.

E. Complete the sentences with the correct word from each word pair. Sentences about America need the American word and sentences about Britain need the British word.

holiday / vacation	chips / french fries	fall / autumn
biscuit / cookie	bill / check	films / movies

- Stephen Spielberg is a director from **America** who has made many famous
- People in **Britain** often leave a tip when paying the after a meal.
- In **Britain**, the average person eats 30 kilograms of a year.
- Thanksgiving is an **American** holiday that is celebrated in the
- The average person in **Britain** takes a once a year.
- The most popular type of in **America** is chocolate chip.