

VOCABULARY

American English vs British English

American Word	Britons Say
A	
Acetaminophen	Paracetamol
Aluminum	Aluminium
Americans	Yanks
Apartment	Flat
Apartment house	Block of flats
Appointment Book	Diary
Argentina	The Argentine
Argentinian	Argentine
Argument	Row, argy-bargy
B	
Baby Carriage	Pram
Babysitter	Minder
Backpack	Rucksack
Badger	Brock
Baked Potato	Jacket potato
Bandaid	Elastoplast (both brand name bandages)
Bangs	Fringe
Bar	Pub
Barrette	Slide
Baseboard	Skirting-board
Bathroom	Loo, Water closet, W.C.
Battery (car)	Accumulator
Beef extract	Bovril (brand name)
Bleachers	Terrace
Bobby pin	Hair pin

Bodyguard	Minder
Boots (rubber)	Wellies, Wellingtons
Boss	Gaffer
Boy	Lad
Broccoli rabe	Calabrese
Buttocks	Bum
C	
Cabbage and potato	Bubble and squeak
Cafeteria	Refectory
Call	Ring
Can	Tin
Carpenter	Cabinet Maker, Joiner
Carried away	Over the top
Chat (noun)	Natter
Chat (verb)	Natter, Rabbit
Checking account	Current account
Check (bank)	Cheque
Check (restaurant)	Bill
Classy	Upmarket
Comforter	Duvet
Condom	Sheath
Conductor	Guard, clippie (Scotland)
Cookie	Biscuit
Cotton	Cotton wool
Counterclockwise	Anticlockwise
Cracker	Savoury biscuit
Crazy (person)	Nutter
Credit	Hire purchase
Crotch	Crutch
Curator	Keeper
Curb	Kerb

D

Dead End	Close, Cul de sac
Dessert	Afters, Pudding
Detour	Diversion
Diaper	Nappy, Napkin
Doctor's exam room	Surgery
Dropout	School leaver
Drunk	Blotto, legless, paralytic, pissed
Dump	Tip

E

Easy task	Doddle
Editorial	Leader
Eggplant	Aubergine
Elated	Over the Moon
Electrician	Sparky
Elevator	Lift
England	Blighty
Eraser	Rubber
Exercise Class	Keep Fit
Exhausted	Knackered
Expensive	Dear

F

Fall	Autumn
Faucet	Tap
Feeble-minded	Dotty
Fellow	Bloke, Chap
Fire (verb)	Sack
Fish Store	Fishmongers'
Flashlight	Torch

Fourteen Pounds	One stone
French Fries	Chips
Fruit Store	Fruiterers'
G	
Garage sale	Jumble sale, boot sale
Garbage Bag	Bin liner
Garbage Can	Bin
Garbageman	Dustman
Garter Belt	Suspenders
Gas	Petrol
Gas heater	Gas fire
Gelatin	Jelly
Glasses	Bins, Specs
Go away	Naff off, sod off
Golden raisins	Sultanas
Grade	Form
Granola	Muesli
Ground Beef	Mince
Gutter	Gully
Guy	Bloke, Chap
H	
Ham	Gammon
Hamburger bun	Bap
Hardware store	Ironmongers'
Healthfood	Wholefood
Heater (gas)	Gas fire
Heater (electric)	Electric fire
Hedge	Hedgerow
Highrise	Tower block
Highway	Carriageway, Motorway
Hood	Bonnet

Hooligan Yob, Yobbo

Horse Chestnut Conker

Hungry Peckish

I

Inclusive All-in

Instruction Tuition

Intermission Interval

Interrogate Vet

Investigate Vet

J

Jail Gaol

Jelly Jam

Juice Concentrate Squash

K

Kerosene Paraffin

L

Ladybug Ladybird

Lady's room Ladies'

Lawyer Barrister, Solicitor

Leash Lead

Lemonade Non-carbonated beverage

License plate Number plate

Like (verb) Fancy

Line Queue

Lineup Identity parade

Liquor store Off license

Living room Lounge

M

Mail (noun or verb)	Post
Main street	High street
Men's room	Gents
Middle of nowhere	Back of beyond
Model (of sorts)	Page 3 girl
Molasses	Treacle
Monkey Wrench	Spanner
Moron	Berk
Motor Home	Caravan
Mover	Removal man
Movie Theater	Cinema
Moving	Removal
Moving truck	Removal van
Muffler	Silencer

N

Nail polish	Nail varnish
Naked	Starkers
Napkin	Serviette
National Holiday	Bank Holiday
Nauseous	Sick, Seedy
Nerd	Wally
Newcastle (person from)	Geordie
Newscaster	Presenter
Nothing	Nought, buggger-all
Nudist	Naturist

O

Oven	Cooker
Overpass	Flyover

P

Pacifier	Dummy
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Panties	Pants, Knickers
Parka	Anorak
Parking lot	Car park
Party favor	Cracker
Pedestrian crossing	Subway
Perfect	Spot on
Period (in punct.)	Full stop
Pharmacist	Chemist
Pimple	Spot
Pin	Brooch
Plastic Tape	Sellotape (brand name)
Plastic wrap	Clingfilm (brand name)
Pleasant	Homely
Pleased	Chuffed
Police Car	Panda car
Policeman	Bobby
Pool	Snooker
Popsicle	Ice lolly
Potato Chips	Crisps
Pregnant	Bun in the oven
Prenatal	Antenatal
Preppie	Sloane Ranger
Prison	The nick
Private school	Public school
Prom	Ball
Propeller	Air screw
Push up	Press up
Put to sleep	Put down
Q	
Quarrel	Row

R

Railroad Tie	Sleeper
Raincoat	Mac, mackintosh
Raise	Rise
Realtor	Estate Agent
Relish	Pickle
Rent	Hire
Reserve	Book
Rest stop	Lay-by
Roast	Joint
Run	Ladder
Rutabaga	Swede
S	
Sandwich	Butty
Saran Wrap	Clingfilm (Both are brand names)
SATs	A-levels (college entrance exams)
Sausage	Banger
Sausage & potatoes	Bangers and mash
Scalper	Tout
Scotch Tape	Sellotape (Both are brand names)
Sedan	Saloon car
Seedy	Downmarket
Sell	Flog
Senior Citizen	OAP (Old Age Pensioner)
Shopping Bag	Carrier bag
Sick	Nauseous
Sideburns	Sideboards
Sidewalk	Pavement
Slate (noun)	List of candidates for election
Slate (verb)	Designate for action or appointment
Slowpoke	Slowcoach
Sneakers	Daps, Trainers, Plimsolls, Pumps

Snow Peas	Mange Tout
Soccer	Football
Spay	Doctor
Spoiled	Off
Squash	Marrow
Steal	Nick, Pinch
Stingy	Mean
Stopper	Bung
Street Musician	Busker
Stupid	Daft, Gormless
Subway	Underground
Superbowl of Soccer	FA Cup
Suspenders	Braces
Sweater	Jumper
T	
Talk show	Chat show
Taxi stand	Rank
Tenement	Housing estate
Testicles	Bollocks
Thank you	Cheers, Ta
Thicket	Copse
Thumbtack	Drawing pin
Toilet	Loo
Toss	Bung
Traffic Circle	Roundabout
Traffic Jam	Tailback
Trash Bag	Bin liner
Trash Can	Bin
Truck	Lorry
Trunk	Boot
Turnip	Swede

TV	Telly
Two Weeks	Fortnight
U	
Umbrella	Brolly
Underpants (men's)	Y-fronts
Underpants (women's)	Pants, Knickers
Undershirt	Vest
Unemployed	Redundant
Unstable	Wonky
V	
Vacation	Holiday
Very	Bloody
Vest	Waistcoat
Vice Girl	Prostitute
Vinyl Top (of car)	Hood
W	
Whine	Whinge
Wine (cheap)	Plonk
Woman (attractive)	Crumpet
Y	
Yard	Garden
Yard sale	Jumble sale
Years	Yonks
You're Welcome	[not used in Britain]
Z	
Zee (the letter)	Zed
Zip code	Postal code
Zucchini	Courgette

Top 5 Problem Words

Problem Word	In US this Means	In UK this Means
Bomb	Big Failure	Great Success
Fanny	Buttocks	Pudendum
Public School	State school	Private school
Sod	Turf	Unpleasant person (deriv. sodomite)
Table	Set aside	Bring to a vote

Next 5 Problem Words

Problem Word	In US this Means	In UK this Means
Fag	Rude word for a homosexual man	Cigarette
Homely	Ugly	Pleasant
Knock up	Impregnate	1. Awaken by knocking on door, 2. In tennis, a warm up session, 3. Pre pare hastily
Lemonade	Non-carbonated beverage	Carbonated beverage
Suspenders	Straps worn to hold up trousers	Straps worn to hold up a woman's stockings

More Problem Words

Problem Word	In US this Means	In UK this Means
Bum	Homeless person	Buttocks
Knickers	Short trousers	Woman's undergarment
Momentarily	In a moment	For a moment
Pissed	Angry	Inebriated
Rubber	Condom	Eraser

Additional Problem Words

Problem Word	In US this Means	In UK this Means
Corn	Maize	Wheat or oats
Pot plant	Marijuana	Potted plant
Randy	Man or woman's name	Libidinous
Subway	Underground railway	Underground walkway
Vest	Garment worn over a shirt	Garment worn under a shirt

Supplemental Problem Words

Problem Word	In US this Means	In UK this Means
Billion	Thousand million	Million million (dated)
First Floor	Street level	One floor above street level
Jelly	Preserve made from fruit and sugar	Gelatin
Robin	Larger bird; symbol of Spring	Smaller bird; symbol of Christmas
Sick	Unwell	Nauseated

Incremental Problem Words

Problem Word	In US this Means	In UK this Means
Enjoin	Prohibit	Require
Faggot	Rude word for a homosexual man	1. Sausage patty, 2. Sticks of wood tied together and used to start a fire
Paraffin	Candle wax	Oil distilled from petroleum or shale (US, kerosene)
Presently	Now	Soon
Slate	List of candidates	Criticize

Transcendental Problem Words

Problem Word	In US this Means	In UK this Means
Cot	Small, collapsible bed	Small bed for a baby (US, crib)
Jumper	Sleeveless dress worn over a blouse	Knitted pullover (US, sweater)
Pavement	Paved surface of a road	Paved walkway beside a road (US, sidewalk)
Poof	Exclamation used to express that something has happened suddenly or magically	Rude word for a homosexual man
Revise	Correct or update	Review

Existential Problem Words

Problem Word	In US this Means	In UK this Means
Cider	Non-alcoholic beverage made from apples	Alcoholic beverage made from apples
Inside Lane	Lane nearest center of road	Lane nearest side of road
Overalls	Loose-fitting trousers with a bib front and shoulder straps	Coat-like outer garment worn to protect clothes
Semi	Tractor-trailer	Semi-detached house
Stuffed	Full from overeating	Part of a rude expression: "Get stuffed!"

Preferential Problem Words

Problem Word	In US this Means	In UK this Means
Braces	Wire device worn to straighten teeth	Straps worn to hold up trousers (US, suspenders)
Garden	Plot of land used to cultivate flowers or vegetables	Plot of grass adjacent to a house (US, yard)
Hump	(Vulgar slang) Have sex with	Carry a heavy object
Precinct	City district, for electoral or police administration purposes	Pedestrian shopping area
Wash up	Wash hands and face	Wash dishes after a meal

Even More Problem Words

Problem Word	In US this Means	In UK this Means
Decorator	Person whose job is to plan the decorations for homes and offices	Person whose job is to paint homes and offices
Haberdashery	Men's clothing	Sewing supplies
Hamper	Large basket for dirty clothing (clothes hamper)	Large basket for food (picnic hamper)
Punter	In the game of football, a person who performs a kick in which the ball is dropped and kicked before it reaches the ground	Customer or gambler
Tick Off	Make angry	Reprimand