

The Differences between British and American English

Most Chinese students don't know the differences between American English and British English. As a matter of fact, the American English and British English have a lot of differences in the word choice, spelling and pronunciation.

There are some different word choices between American English and British English. We will choose different words when we describe the same thing. In American English, we will take an "elevator" when we go upstairs. However, if we were in the UK, we would call an elevator a lift. Moreover, some words similar in spelling have different meanings between American English and British English. In British English, chips are long, thin pieces of potato fried in oil, but they are slices of fried potato in American English.

There are also many differences in the spelling of words between American and British English. One difference is in the omission of letters. For example, color and colour are different in spelling. The words which end with -our in British English will omit the letter "u" in American English. In addition, the silent letters at the end of the words will be omitted in American English. In British English, we write catalogue rather than catalog.

More obviously, there are many differences in pronunciation between American and British English. The most apparent difference in pronunciation is in the pronunciation of the letter “r” and “t”. For example, in the word “work”, in British English. We cannot hear the “r” sound in a lot of words. Instead, a lot of “r” sounds will be heard in American English. The other example is the word “writer”. In British English, we pronounce writer as [ˈraɪtə], but we pronounce it as [ˈraɪdər] in American English.

As you can see, there are many differences between American English and British English in word choice, spelling and pronunciation. It is good to know the differences between them. Most students will be more interested in learning English after knowing the differences between American and British English.