




## BRITISH VS AMERICAN VS NEW ZEALAND ENGLISH

### STANDARD

### VOCABULARY & SPELLING DIFFERENCES

#### VOCABULARY

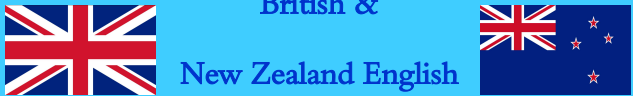
 British English	 American English	 New Zealand English
bloke, body	dude, man, bro, body	bloke, mate, bro
college	high school	college, high school
Cool!; Awesome!; Sweet as pie!	Cool!; Awesome!	Cool <b>as</b> !; Awesome!; Sweet <b>as</b> ! (emphatic)
drunk, pissed (emphatic)	drunk, wasted (emphatic)	drunk, drunk <b>as</b> (emphatic)
flip-flops	sandals	Jandals, sandals
How do you do?, How are you?	How're you doing?, How's it going?, How are you?	"Howdy?“, "G'day"
in the middle of nowhere; miles away; in the back of beyond	in the boondocks (the boonies); in bum f*ck Egypt; in the middle of nowhere	up the boohai; up the Puhoi (river); in the wop wops
(...), isn't it?	(...), right?	(...), eh?/aye?
(in a) queue	(in) line	queue, line
swimsuit, bathing suit, (swimming) trunks	swimsuit, bathing suit, trunks (men), speedos	swimsuit, togs
Ta or Cheers	Hello, goodbye, thank you	"Ta" or "Kia Ora" (maori)
trainers, runners	sneakers; trainers, or sport/gym/tennis shoes	running shoes
white goods	kitchen appliances	Whiteware

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 British & New Zealand English	American English 
aubergine, eggplant (only in NZ)	eggplant
biscuit	cookie
car parts: bonnet, boot, tyre	car parts: hood, trunk, tire
chemist	drugstore or pharmacy
chips	(french) fries
consultancy agency	consulting firm
(potato) crisps	(potato) chips
driving licence	driver license
fizzy drink	soda
flat	apartment
football	soccer
ground floor	first floor or ground floor
hire (e.g., a car) or rent (only in NZ)	rent (e.g., a car)
(on) holidays	(on) vacation
jumper	sweater (wool)
lift	elevator
(really) mad	pissed or pissed off
mobile (phone), cell (only in NZ)	cell (phone)
motorway	freeway, highway
petrol	gas, gasoline
phone, ring ( <i>verb</i> )	phone, call ( <i>verb</i> )
Post Office, postbox, postman, post	Post Office, mailbox, mailman, mail
rubber	eraser (rubber = condom)
sausages, bangers	sausages
straight away	right away
surname	last name
sweets	candy
take the piss out of someone (not tabu)	make a joke about someone
toilet, loo (UK), dunny (NZ)	toilet, restroom
trousers	pants
university	university, college, school
wardrobe	closet

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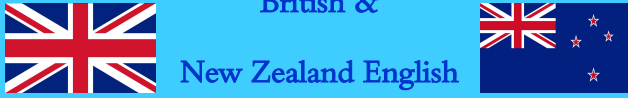

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 British English	 American & New Zealand English 
delighted, very pleased	<b>Also:</b> stoked
estate car	station wagon
Can I <b>get a lift</b> to the airport?	Can I <b>get a ride</b> to the airport?
ironmongery, DIY (Do It Yourself)	hardware store
lorry	truck
jumping/barging the queue	cutting in line; cutting the line
puncture	flat tire (US); flat tyre (NZ)
registration plate	license plate (US); licence plate, puncture (NZ)

 British & American English 	New Zealand English 
all is well	<b>Also:</b> good as gold
and so on	<b>Also:</b> and that
convenience (corner) store, small grocery store	<b>Also:</b> (corner) dairy
hurry up	<b>Also:</b> rattle your dags! (dags= faeces stuck to the wool of a sheep, which rattle if dry)
lots, abundant, plenty	<b>Also:</b> heaps
sunglasses	Sunnies
tiny, little, small	<b>Also:</b> wee
well done	good on ya, mate

SPELLING. Pronunciation of the letter “z”.

 British & New Zealand English		 American English	
Z	/zed/	Z	/zee/

The only letter that is pronounced different in the English Alphabet when spelling is the “z”. The vast majority of the English speaking world (British, New Zealanders, Canadians, Australians, etc.) does “z” as “/zed/”, whereas Americans pronounce “z” as “/zee/”.

**Why “/zed/”?** The “z” originates in the Greek letter “Zeta”, which later on gave rise to the Old French “zede”, and resulted in the English “zed” -approx. in the 15th century.

Something quite similar happens in standard written English, where British, New Zealanders, Canadians, Australians, etc. basically spell the same way, and Americans have some slight differences. Feel free to compare below for once and for all.

**Why?** This is due to American lexicographer Noah Webster, he of dictionary fame, who adapted the spelling of some words **to match the pronunciation**... -approx. in the 19th century.

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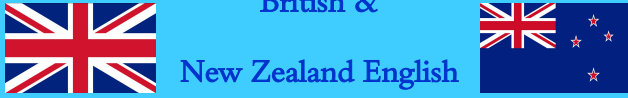

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SPELLING. In Writing.

 British & New Zealand English		 American English	
-ae-	anAEmia, encyclopAEdia, hAEmorrhage, hAEmorrhoids	-e-	anEmia, encyclopEdia, hEmorrhage, hEmorrhoids
-ell-	canceLLED, traveLLED, channeLLED, counseLLED, modeLLED, marveLLous, jeweLLer, counseLLor, labelLED	-el-	canceLed, traveLed, channeLed, counseLed, modeLed, marveLous, jeweLer, counseLor, labelEd
-ence	licenCe, defenCe, offenCe	-ense	licenSe, defenSe, offenSe
-ise	organiSe, authoriSe, prioritiSe, realiSe, recogniSe, apologiSe, memoriSe, appetiSer, familiariSe,	-ize	organiZe, authoriZe, prioritiZe, realiZe, recogniZe, apologiZe, memoriZe, appetiZer, familiariZe
-l-	enroL, fulfil, skiLful	-ll-	enroLL, fulfilL, skiLLfull
-mm-	prograMMe	-m-	prograM
-ou	behaviOUr, colOUr, honOUr, favOUrite, humOUr, flavOUr, harbOUr, labOUr, mOUld, neighbOUr	-o	behaviOr, colOr, honOr, favOrite, humOr, flavOr, harbOr, labOr, mOld, neighbOr
-oe-	diarrhOEa	-e-	diarrEa

 British & New Zealand English		 American English	
-ogue	catalOGUE, dialOGUE, analOGUE, monolOGUE,	-og/- ogue	catalOG, dialOG, analOG, monolOG / (also -OGUE)
-re	theatRE, litRE, metRE, centRE, fibRE	-er	theatER, litER, metER, centER, fibER
-ss-	focuSSed	-s-	focuSed
-t (& -ed)	learnT, dreamT, burnT, leapT (also -ED, though less common)	-ed	learnED, dreamED, burnED, leapED
-y-	tYre	-i-	tIre

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