

An activity to revise and extend SS' knowledge of US vocabulary. Make one copy per student.

LANGUAGE

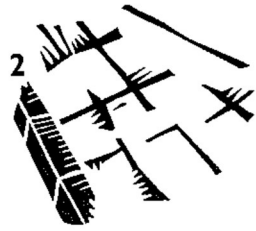
American and British vocabulary

- Give out the copies. Tell SS to look at each picture and then find the British and American word for it in the circles below. Set a time limit, e.g. five minutes.
- Check answers.
1 UK rubbish US garbage 2 UK pavement
US sidewalk 3 UK flat US apartment 4 UK shop
US store 5 UK lorry US truck 6 UK petrol US gas
7 UK lift US elevator 8 UK garden US yard
9 UK sweets US candy 10 UK autumn US fall
11 UK chemist's US pharmacy 12 UK wardrobe
US closet 13 UK underground US subway
14 UK trousers US pants 15 UK tap US faucet
- SS test each other. A says a British word and B says the US word. After a couple of minutes get B to test A by saying the US word for A to say the British word.

Write the words for each picture in British (UK) and American English (US).



UK _____
US _____



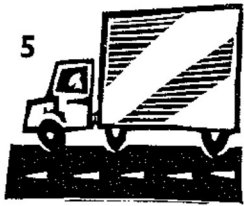
UK _____
US _____



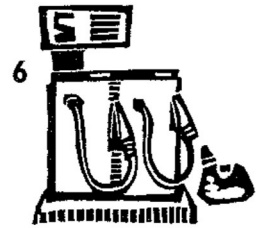
UK _____
US _____



UK _____
US _____



UK _____
US _____



UK _____
US _____



UK _____
US _____



UK _____
US _____



UK _____
US _____



UK _____
US _____



UK _____
US _____



UK _____
US _____



UK _____
US _____



UK _____
US _____



UK _____
US _____

British English

sweets	lorry
trousers	tap
autumn	garden
pavement	rubbish
shop	underground
flat	lift
wardrobe	chemist's
petrol	

US English

apartment	pants
candy	pharmacy
closet	sidewalk
elevator	store
fall	subway
faucet	truck
garbage	yard
gas	

Pelmanism

Target language: UK and US English

Activity type: pelmanism

When to use: Use this activity after Unit 9 Vocabulary.

Time taken: 15 minutes

Preparation: Photocopy and cut up one worksheet for each group of three or four students in the class.

Procedure

Divide students into groups of three or four and give each a set of cut up cards to each group. Tell students to put the cards on the desk face down and spread out.

Explain the rules of the game. Each student takes it in turn to turn over two cards. If the cards match (i.e. the word means the same), that student takes the two cards. They must explain the meaning and say which one is American and which one is British English. They then have to define the words, e.g. *Petrol is something you put in your car to make it work.* The rest of the group checks that this is correct and if there is any dispute, they consult with you. If the student does this correctly they keep the cards and if they do it incorrectly, they put them back down on the table and mix up all the cards. The winner is the student with the most cards at the end.

Go around the class, monitoring the students' sentences. Fast finishers could share any other words that they know that are different in UK and US English.

Answers

US English is first in each pair: cell phone/mobile phone; check/bill; fries/chips; mail/post; gas/petrol; highway/motorway; shopping mall/shopping centre; apartment/flat; resumé/CV; roundtrip/return ticket; subway/underground; soccer/football; movie/film; vacation/holiday; restroom/toilet.

Pelmanism



CELL PHONE	MOBILE PHONE	BILL	CHECK	CHIPS
FRIES	POST	MAIL	PETROL	GAS
MOTORWAY	HIGHWAY	SHOPPING CENTRE	MALL	FLAT
APARTMENT	CV	RESUMÉ	RETURN TICKET	ROUND TRIP
UNDERGROUND	SUBWAY	FOOTBALL	SOCCER	FILM
MOVIE	HOLIDAY	VACATION	TOILET	RESTROOM

Match an American English word from the list on the right with a British English word in the puzzles. You don't have all the American words so you will have to ask your partner for the others like this:

What do Americans say for *chemist's shop*?

			S					chemist's shop	1
			T					city centre	2
			A					sunglasses	3
			R					rubbish	4
			S					petrol	5
			A					autumn	6
			N					sweets	7
			D					class in school	8
			S					ketchup	9
			T					holiday	10
			R					garden	11
			I					biscuit	12
			P					aubergine	13
			E					bad (person)	14
			S					wardrobe	15

American English:

- truck*
- vacation*
- trash*
- fall*
- biscuit*
- mean*
- eggplant*
- check*
- candy*
- pants*
- gas*
- cookie*

16		lorry						U		
17		trousers						N		
18		crisps						I		
19		film						O		
20		queue						N		
21		jam						J		
22		lift						A		
23		small cake						C		
24		bill (restaurant)						K		

Match an American English word from the list on the right with a British English word in the puzzles. You don't have all the American words so you will have to ask your partner for the others like this:

What do Americans say for rubbish?

				S					chemist's shop	1
				T					city centre	2
				A					sunglasses	3
				R					rubbish	4
				S					petrol	5
				A					autumn	6
				N					sweets	7
				D					class in school	8
				S					ketchup	9
				T					holiday	10
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				I					biscuit	12
				P					aubergine	13
				E					bad (person)	14
				S					wardrobe	15

- American English:**
- jelly
 - closet
 - drugstore
 - elevator
 - chips
 - catsup
 - shades
 - movie
 - yard
 - downtown
 - line
 - grade

16				lorry						U		
17				trousers						N		
18				crisps						I		
19				film						O		
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