



British vs. American English

1: Answer Key (p. 41)

Checkpoints

1. Name some words that are pronounced differently in AE (GA) and BE (RP).
Renaissance, advertisement, herb, schedule, leisure, tomato, vitamin, aluminium, ate
2. Name the five main spelling differences between AE and BE.
 1. Some words that end in –ter in AE, end in –tre in BE
- theater (AE), theatre (BE)
- center (AE), centre (BE)
 2. Some words that end in –og in AE, end in –ogue in BE
- monolog (AE), monologue (BE)
- catalog (AE), catalogue (BE)
 3. Some words that end in –or in AE, end in –our in BE.
- color (AE), colour (BE)
- neighbor (AE), neighbour (BE)
 4. Verbs that end in –ize/yze in AE, end in –ise/yse in BE.
- analyze (AE), analyse (BE)
 5. In BE, the –l at the end of a word is doubled when a new ending is added. In AE the –l is only doubled if the stress is originally on the second syllable:
- rebel – rebelled (AE), rebel – rebelled (BE)
- travel – traveler (AE), travel – traveller (BE)

Language Work

- BE - I am knackered and I must go to the loo.
- AE - I am tired and have to go to the bathroom.

- BE - Are there any WCs close by?
- AE - Is there a restroom close by?

- BE - Must I queue up behind that bloke?
- AE - Do I have to get in line behind that guy?



- BE - Is there a chemist anywhere close?
- AE - Is there a drugstore/pharmacy around here?

- BE - I am peckish.
- AE - I am hungry.

- BE - At the zebra crossing the lollipop lady directed us to take a diversion, but my lorry was almost out of petrol and it was impossible.
- AE - At the crosswalk the crossing guard directed us to take a detour, but my truck was almost out of gas and it was impossible.