American English versus British English: Answer Key

1. Different spelling

Arrange the words into the corresponding columns beneath the cloud.



| '-or' | AE | '-our' | BE | '-er' | AE | '-re' | BE |
|-------|----------|--------|-----------|-------|---------|-------|---------|
| • | humor | • | humour | • | meter | • | metre |
| • | favorite | • | favourite | • | theater | • | theatre |

| '-log' | AE | '-logue' | BE | '-z' | AE | '-s' | BE |
|--------|---------|------------------------------|----|------|------------|------|------------|
| • | dialog | dialogue | | • | to realize | • | to realise |
| • | catalog | catalogu | е | • | cozy | • | cosy |

2. Different vocabulary

Fill in the missing equivalents.

| Different words AE | Different words BE | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| • trunk | • boot | | | | |
| mobile phone | cellphone | | | | |
| • candy | • sweets | | | | |
| • line | • queue | | | | |
| • faucet | • tap | | | | |
| apartment | • flat | | | | |
| • soccer | • football | | | | |
| • subway | underground | | | | |
| • pants | trousers | | | | |
| • schedule | timetable | | | | |
| vacation | holidays | | | | |
| • check | • cheque | | | | |
| • tire | • tyre | | | | |
| • jewelry | • jewellery | | | | |

3. Different vocabulary

Fill in the blanks and get to know some typical American and British sentiments at the same time!

- In the States many city people live in their <u>apartments</u>, whereas few people in Britain live in <u>flats</u> as it is more common to buy houses there.
- Looking at an American <u>license plate/ tag</u> you at least know the state where the car is registered. For the British it seems more important to know how old a car is which can be deduced from the numbers and letters on British <u>licence plates/ tags/</u> number plates.
- When you wait for a bus in Britain, there is often a well-ordered <u>queue</u> at the bus station. Patiently waiting in a line is not every American's idea.
- Ritish mothers often bake <u>biscuits</u> for 5 o'clock tea. American <u>moms</u> like to give their children cookies and some even think that they are part of a healthy diet.
- ★ Two friends on speaker phone in their cars: "Ups I need to stop at the next petrol station. I have stood on the M25 around London for too long. What about you in Atlanta?" "There is much traffic on I-285 too, but my fuel tank is rather full. This is why I do not need to fill up at the next gas station on my way, but my windshield is dirty I cannot see the road clearly. So I need to find a gas station anyway."
- Amanda, on the phone: "What are your plans for the weekend?"- Kate: "Well, nothing special, just a nice time out, this week in the City was not really interesting. I thought of going to the cinema and watch the new Fast and Furious film, eating crisps which should stop me from biting my nails because of the tension. What about you in New York?" Amanda: "That sounds good! Actually, there is no movie for me this time. I am quite excited, we will go to the theater on Broadway tonight and see Disney's The Lion King. Unfortunately, you are not allowed to eat chips as it is rather formal there. Ah...reminds me, I need to prepare food and then check my wardrobe. Sorry, I need to go! Have fun, speak to you soon!" "Thanks, the same to you, bye, dear!"