**Variants of English Language and their DIFFERENCES**

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***Annotation:*** *The article investigates the history of English language and reveals the main differences in three variants of English language concerning the pronunciation and grammatical peculiarities. The main differences in British, American and Australian variants are taken into account,*

***Key words****:* difference, version, differentiate, pronunciation, vowel sounds.

If English is your native language, you may struggle to differentiate the variances between English spoken in Australia, vs. the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, or India. Each form of English has features that set it apart from the rest, and this applies not only to the spoken language, but the written as well.

But how did these changes come about and why? Wouldn’t you assume that we’d all be speaking a closer version of British English than we currently do? Well, it all comes down to history and influence. Read on to learn about how British, Australian, and American English came to be what they are today, and stay tuned for the following article, where we’ll explore English in Canada and India!

**British English**

Dialects and accents vary amongst the four countries of the United Kingdom, as well as within the countries themselves.

Phonological features characteristic of British English revolve around the pronunciation of the letter R, as well as the dental plosive T and some diphthongs specific to this dialect. Glottal stop, R-dropping, Diphthongisation Loss of grammatical number in collective nouns Phonology

The most obvious difference between Australian, American, and British English is in the accents or pronunciation. This difference is especially noticeable in vowel sounds. The letter can also be very tricky! American English is famous for its clear /r/ sounds, whereas British or Australian English lose the /r/ sound if it’s at the end of a word or syllable. For example, the word “smarter” is pronounced /smɑrtər/ in American English, but /smɑːtə/ in British and Australian English. In addition to the pronunciation of words, the intonation (the pitch of your voice) can be very different in different countries. For example, if a person asks a yes/no question in American English, their voice goes up at the end. But if a person asks that question in Australian English or British English, their voice would go down!

Technically speaking, British English is the mother of English. After all, if it weren’t for British expansion and colonization, the Americas, India, and Australia would be very different places today.

So what differentiates it from the dialects used in other countries?

Well, for starters British English is considered to be the most complex of the five types of English. This particular English features grammar and spelling rules which are more difficult than those you tend to find, for example, in American English.[1].

Part of the reason for this is due to the standardization of the English language in the U.K. in the 18th century. It was during this time that much of the British English we see today was put in place as the standard for law, government, literature, and education.

So, why did Great Britain choose to establish a complex form of English? It’s important to remember that during the 18th century French was considered the lingua franca of Europe and France was perceived to be the epitome of high class and culture.

In light of this, Great Britain wanted to show case French influence in written English (and in some ways allow for the upper classes to differentiate themselves from the lower, uneducated masses).

It’s for this reason that you’ll find the widespread use of ‘s’ instead of ‘z’, such as in (British) accessorize vs. (American) accessorize, which bears similarities to how these same words are written in French, and you’ll even find words spelled exactly the same as in French, as in (British) aeon  vs. (American) eon vs. (French) aeon.

To keep things simpler though, a general rule of thumb to guide you into British English is that the written dialect is meant to reflect the word’s etymology.

**Australian English**

The earliest form of Australian English was spoken by the children of the colonists in early New South Wales. This first generation of native-born children created a new dialect that was to become the language of the nation. The Australian-born children in the new colony were exposed to a wide range of dialects from all over the British Isles, in particular from Ireland and South East England. The native-born children in the colony created the new dialect from the speech they heard around them, and with it expressed peer solidarity. Even when new settlers arrived, this new dialect was strong enough to blunt other patterns of speech.[2]

Languages are always a product of culture and history, and Australian English is heavily influenced by the history of British colonization in Australia. Many times, Australian English is considered to be a less ‘classy’ version of British or American English.

Great Britain’s first society on the Australian continent was a penal colony of criminals banished to etch out an existence on this distant world. Two generations later, just under 90% of colonizers living in Australia were convicts, ex-convicts, or of convict decent. It is precisely this convict influence that led to the Australian English we all know and love today.

Convicts generally weren’t highly educated back in the day and more prone to use slang and diminutive terms to make English more rhythmic and, in their new home, easier to use.

Furthermore, the varied dialects of Australia’s Aboriginal people began to come into play in the Australian use of English. The many Aboriginal dialects tend to have one thing in common: they end each syllable with a vowel sound, giving the languages a very ‘smooth’ intonation.

As English speakers began adopting and using words from Aboriginal dialects, they also started to soften the English words so that they would harmonize well. It’s for this reason that many tend to describe the Australian accent as ‘lazy’ or ‘mellow’, because it’s much smoother sounding than its British or American counterparts.

In terms of spelling, Australian English follows the British more than it does the American, however, you can find instances of influences from both.

**American English**

Out of all the forms of English, American is often touted as the easiest to understand. Today, learning to speak with an American accent is in high demand, hence students in Asia, South America, and other parts of the world tend to seek out Americans as English tutors and teachers.

In comparison to British English, American English’s grammar and spelling are also much easier to grasp. Again, it was English-speaking settlers from Great Britain who migrated to the U.S., bringing their native language with them. But were it not for the American Revolution in 1765, we would all probably be speaking and writing, a very different type of English.

The American Revolution sought to overthrow the authority of Great Britain and form a nation of its own. When the Revolution ended in 1783, the fledging nation wanted to distance itself from its former British masters and create its own identity.[3]

Part of that identity was formed through language. Remember a guy named Noah Webster? Well, he thought that one way for the U.S. to assert its cultural independence was through the written word. A big believer in spelling reform, Webster thought words should be spelled more like they sound, hence written American English’s tendency to be easier to pick up than the British.

Webster was responsible for the first American dictionary, spelling, grammar, and reading books and he implemented a lot of his ideas within those very pages. His influence on written American English was as revolutionary as the Founding Father’s impact on early American government and independence!

What do you think are some other influences which led to the difference between British, Australian, and American English? Share your know-how with us in the comments section!

American English or United States English is the dialect of English language spoken in the United States. Historically, many types of American English can be found in old local dialects of England.

Studies on also rhotic. Spelling in American English Studies on historical usage of English in both the United States and the United Kingdom suggest that spoken American English did not simply deviate away from period British English, but retained certain now-archaic features contemporary British English has since lost. Phonology

While written American English is largely standardized across the country and its dialects are mutually intelligible, there are several recognizable regional and ethnic accents as well as some vocabulary differences.

**Local Dialects in the USA**

The English language in the United States is characterized by relative uniformity throughout the country. One can travel three thousand miles without encountering any but the slightest dialect differences. Nevertheless, regional variations in speech undoubtedly exist and they have been observed and recorded by a number of investigators.

The following three major belts of dialects have so far been identified, each with its own characteristic features: Northenr Midland and Southern, Midland being in turn divided into North Midland and South Midland.

The differences in pronunciation between American dialects are most apparent, but they seldom interfere with understanding. Distinctions in grammar are scarce. The differences in vocabulary are rather numerous, but they are easy to pick up. Cf., e.g., Eastern New England sour-milk cheese. Inland Northern Dutch cheese, New York City pot cheese for Standard American cottage cheese (творог).

The American linguist "O. F. Emerson maintains that American English had not had time to break up into widely diverse dialects and he believes that in the course of time the American dialects might finally become nearly as distinct as the dialects in Britain. He is certainly greatly mistaken. In modern times dialect divergence cannot increase. On the contrary, in the United States, as elsewhere, the national language is tending to wipe out the dialect distinctions and to become still more uniform.[4]

Comparison of the dialect differences in the' British Isles and in the USA reveals that not only are they less numerous and far less marked in the USA, but that the very nature of the local distinctions is different. What is usually known as American dialects is closer in nature to regional variants of the literary language. The problem of discriminating between literary and dialect speech patterns in the USA is much more complicated than in Britain. Many American linguists point out that American English differs from British English in having no one locality whose speech patterns have come to be recognized as the model for the rest of the country.

**Conclusion**

Sometimes the differences between Australian, American and British English can be frustrating and difficult. But you should remember that overall, these three varieties of English are more similar than different, and the little differences are what give a language its unique “flavor”!

1. English is the national language of England proper, the USA, Australia and some provinces of Canada. It was also at different times imposed on the inhabitants of the former and present British colonies and protectorates as well as other Britain- and US-dominated territories, where the population has always stuck to its own mother tongue.

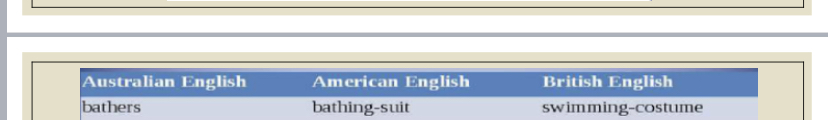
2. British English, American English and Australian English are variants of the same language, because they serve all spheres of verbal communication. Their structural peculiarities, especially morphology, syntax and word-formation, as well as their word-stock and phonetic system are essentially the same. American and Australian standards are slight modifications of the norms accepted in the British Isles. The status of Canadian English has not yet been established.

3. The main lexical differences between the variants are caused by the lack of equivalent lexical unitsin one of them, divergences in the semantic structures of polysemantic words and peculiarities of usage of some words on different territories.

4. The so-called local dialects in the British Isles and in the USA .are used only by the rural population and only for the purposes of oral communication. In both variants local distinctions are more marked in pronunciation, less conspicuous in vocabulary and insignificant in grammar.

5. The British local dialects can be traced back to Old English dialects. Numerous and distinct, they are characterized by phonemic and structural peculiarities. The local dialects are being gradually replaced by regional variants of the literary language, i. e. by a literary standard with a proportion of local dialect features.

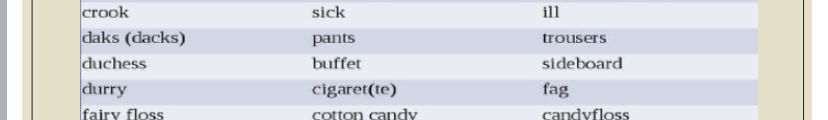
6. Local variations in the USA are relatively small. What is called by tradition American dialects is closer in nature to regional variants of the national literary language.

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**Примеры:**

Купальник:

Болезнь:



Штаны:



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