American English

There are differences between British English and American English, in vocabulary and also in spelling. For example, the compartment for luggage in a car is a ‘boot’ in British English, and a ‘trunk’ in American English. The spelling of ‘humour’ in American English is ‘humor’.

GETTING STARTED

Match up the British English word with its American English equivalent.

biscuits  petrol  janitor  cookies
jumper  caretaker  closet  movie
rubbish  cupboard  vacation  sweater
tsweets  film  candy  garbage
torch  holiday  flashlight  gasoline

MOVING ON

Alex writes to her friend in England. Help her change her American spelling (in bold) for British English spelling.

Alison Jones
2 Northton Street
Newtown
England

Dear Alison,

I love the color [__________] of the scarf you sent me. Thanks honey. Last night my mom [__________] took me to the theater [__________] in the center [__________] of town to see my favorite [__________] play ‘A View from the Bridge’. The actors were really skillful [__________]. I’ve kept the program [__________] to show you.

Ben is thinking of studying either archeology [__________] or medieval [__________] history at college. He always did have a brain like an encyclopedia [__________].

I also got some jewelry [__________] for Christmas, pajamas [__________] and my grandma gave me a check [__________] for $50 which I’m putting in my bank for my trip over to see you.

Love,

Alex

How many did you get right?
10 = Novice 15 = Expert 20 = Maestro

You can use your Oxford English Dictionary for Schools for these activities.