

## North American English to UK English

In addition to word usage, there are also quite a number of slight spelling differences. We don't use a "zed" (not "zee") in many words like organisation – it's replaced with an "s".

Dates are ordered day/month/year. We use A4 sized paper and not 8 ½ X 11 Letter sized.

| In the UK                           | In North America  |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Aubergine                           | Eggplant  |
| Autumn                              | Fall  |
| Biro                                | Pen   |
| Biscuits                            | Cookies   |
| Car park                            | Parking lot   |
| Caravan                             | Trailer   |
| Charity Shop                        | Thrift store  |
| Chemist                             | Drug Store  |
| Chips                               | French Fries  |
| Cinema                              | Movie theatre   |
| Cooker                              | Stove   |
| Courgettes                          | Zucchini  |
| Crisps                              | Potato chips  |
| Crockery                            | Plates, bowls, cups, etc.   |
| Curtains                            | Drapes  |
| Drawing pin                         | Thumb tacks   |
| Fancy dress                         | Dressing up clothes / costume for Halloween or other event – it's NOT formal wear |
| Film                                | Movie   |
| Flat                                | Apartment   |
| Full stop                           | Period  |
| Garden                              | Backyard  |
| Gillet (pronounced in a French way) | Vest  |
| Handbag                             | Purse   |
| High Street                         | Main Street of most towns and cities  |
| Hob                                 | Stove / hotplate  |
| Hoover                              | Vacuum  |
| Ill                                 | Sick  |
| Interval                            | Intermission  |
| Jacket potato                       | Baked potato  |
| Jumper                              | Sweater   |
| Lift                                | Elevator  |
| Lorry                               | Truck   |
| Motorway                            | Freeway   |
| Off licence                         | Liquor store / shop   |
| Optician                            | Optometrist   |
| Pants                               | Underpants  |
| Pavement                            | Sidewalk  |
| Petrol Station                      | Gas Station   |
| Plaster                             | Band-aid  |
| Post                                | Mail  |
| Puncture                            | Flat tire   |
| Purse                               | Wallet  |
| Queue                               | Line up   |
| Railway                             | Railroad  |
| Reception                           | Front desk  |
| Return ticket                       | Round-trip  |
| Rubbish / Rubbish bin               | Garbage can / Trash can   |
| Rucksack                            | Back pack   |
| Sellotape                           | Scotch tape   |
| Shop                                | Store   |

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Starter                    | Appetizer  |
| Surgery                    | Doctors' office  |
| Sweets                     | Candy  |
| Taxi                       | Cab  |
| Tights                     | Pantyhose  |
| Tin                        | Can  |
| Toilet/Loo                 | Restroom/washroom  |
| Torch                      | Flashlight   |
| Trainers                   | Running shoes  |
| Trolley                    | Shopping cart  |
| Trousers                   | Pants  |
| Vest                       | Undershirt   |
| Wardrobe                   | Closet   |
| Washbasin                  | Sink   |
| Wellies                    | Gumboots   |
| Windscreen                 | Windshield   |
| <b>Commonly used words</b> |  |
| Banter                     | Light chit chat amongst friends/colleagues               |
| Cheers                     | Greeting often used at the end of conversations / emails |
| Dodgy                      | Iffy or uncertain  |
| Gutted                     | Really upset – "I'm gutted at losing the race."          |
| Knackered                  | Exhausted  |
| Naff                       | Silly/ Trite   |
| Quid                       | British Pound £  |
| Skint                      | Broke  |
| Skive                      | Skip work or school                                      |

You'll find a Guide to some Cambridge-specific slang [here](#).

Please don't hesitate to ask someone to explain a term or an acronym that you don't understand!