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АМЕРИКАНСКИЙ АНГЛИЙСКИЙ

ЮНИТА 1

БРИТАНСКИЙ И АМЕРИКАНСКИЙ АНГЛИЙСКИЙ

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АМЕРИКАНСКИЙ АНГЛИЙСКИЙ

Юнита 1. Британский и американский английский.

Юнита 2. Диалекты английского языка.

ЮНИТА 1

Сопоставляются британская и американская версия английского языка (орфография, грамматика, лексика, системы мер и весов).

Для студентов факультета лингвистики СГУ

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* Глоссарий расположен в середине учебного пособия и предназначен для самостоятельного заучивания новых понятий.

ПРОГРАММА КУРСА

Английский язык: стандарты и диалекты британский и американский английский в сравнении (фонетика, орфография, грамматика).

ЛИТЕРАТУРА

Базовый учебник

1. Crystal G. The Cambridge Encyclopedia of English Language. Any edition.

Дополнительная литература:

2. Gilbert J. B. Clear Speech. Pronunciation and Listening Comprehension in North. American English. Cambridge University Press, 1993.

3. McCormick C. British-American / American-British Dictionary. Hippocrene Books, 1996.

4. Guide to Business Correspondence. Merriam-Webster, 1996.

5. Buttor S.H., Humphries J. A. Mastering English Language. 2nd Edition. Macmillan, 1992.

6. Walken D. Exploring Newspapers. Macmillan, 1993.

Примечание. Знаком (*) отмечены работы, на основе которых составлен научный обзор.

LESSON 1

INTRODUCTION

There has been a long standing argument as to *which* English is correct: «English-English» or «American-English.» Many students of English are constantly told that the only 'proper' English is that of England. This has also been a point of discussion between the Americans and English for over 200 years, and has actually come to be a joke. The fact of the matter is there is no 'proper' English. There is such a term as American in regard to language groups that has recently evolved. This tends to mean that the American language differs enough from the English language that it has in fact become its own language, and no longer a «dialect» or «version» of English. In actuality, American is spoken by more people throughout the world than English. This can be proven by looking at the populations of these and other countries in Table 1.

Table 1

COUNTRY	POPULATION (million) *	VERSION	NOTES
ENGLAND	43.431	ENG	
SCOTLAND	5.178	ENG	<i>Scottish dialect mixed with the English</i>
IRELAND	4.243	ENG	<i>Irish dialect mixed with the English</i>
WALES	2.767	ENG	<i>Welsh dialect mixed with the English</i>
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	226.546	AMER	<i>Figure includes Indian, Eskimo and Polynesian (Hawaiian) languages; however, the number is insignificant</i>
CANADA	16.969	AMER	<i>Population figure does not include the 6.142 million inhabitants of French Quebec, but does include some very small numbers of Indian and Eskimo languages</i>

*Figures are approximate

Продолжение таблицы 1

COUNTRY	POPULATION (million) *	VERSION	NOTES
AUSTRALIA	10.508	ENG	<i>Figure includes the Tasmanians and Aborigines</i>
NEW ZEALAND	3.129	ENG	<i>Figure includes the Aborigines</i>
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA	15.983	ENG	<i>Figure also includes non-English African tribal languages</i>
MALTA	0.329	ENG	<i>Figure shows total population, although Malta has two national languages</i>
JAMAICA	1.607	MIX	<i>This variation is not only a mixture of American and English versions, but also a completely different dialect of its own</i>
BAHAMAS	0.210	MIX	<i>This variation is in the process of becoming closer to the American version</i>
OTHER CARIBBEAN ISLAND GROUPS	<i>Figure insignificant</i>	MIX	<i>Only a few island nations have English as their national language (many have Spanish, Dutch and French national languages)</i>
PACIFIC ISLAND GROUPS	<i>Figure insignificant</i>	MIX	<i>Some English speaking island nations have the English version as their national language (Pitcairn, Ducie), island nations with the American version (Bikinis, Marianas, Guam, Wake, Midway) and also many island nations that belong to Australia and New Zealand.(see Caribbean Island Groups)</i>

If we estimate these figures to ones that are easier to work with, we can say that there are approximately 90 million English speakers and approximately 250 million American speakers around the world, the total being 340 million «English» speakers. Using simple math, we come up with the following interesting facts:

A) From all English speaking countries, only 26% of the population speak the English version.

B) On the contrary, 74% speak the American version.

These figures bring us back to the original statement (which sounds very strange to an American) that «only British English is correct.» The figures used in Table 1 are only approximate, but even if we had a 5% variant, our percentage would not fluctuate that much.

Keep in mind that «Australian,» «South African,» «British,» «Jamaican,» and «American» English are very similar; however, there are times when we do not understand one another. Most of these differences will be shown and investigated in a later unit.

This unit is dedicated to the differences between American and British English, especially dealing with spelling, grammar, time, sizes, weights, monetary units, and will also deal with misunderstandings between the Americans and the British.

SPELLING

Between American and British spelling there are only a few differences that one meets. These differences, however, can play havoc on the foreign student studying English. There are «British» spellings as well as «American» spellings. These differences are quite simple, however, especially when writing letters, contracts, etc., can be confusing.

It is incorrect to use both British and American spellings in a letter! Choose one spelling (as well as grammar, etc.) and continue using that style only! Be particularly careful when addressing a letter to an American or Canadian company or to a British company. Be considerate and write to an American or Canadian in American and to an Englishman in British.

This spelling rule is quite simple to follow and includes only a handful of suffixes, endings, or roots (see Table 2).

Table 2

BRITISH	EXAMPLES	AMERICAN	EXAMPLES
-our	honour favour savour flavour colour neighbour	-or	honor favor savor flavor color neighbor
-ise	criticise mesmerise organise organisation capitalise capitalisation	-ize	criticize mesmerize organize organization capitalize capitalization
-yse	analyse paralyse	-yze	analyze paralyze
-tre	theatre centre epicentre kilometre	-ter	theater center epicenter kilometer
-amme	programme	-am	program

or and -our

Of course simply thinking that any word ending in or having *-or* in American should be changed to *-our* in British is erroneous. There are several hundreds of words that the Americans spell exactly as the British, for example 'sailor'. A safe rule to follow is that if the word is pronounced with the same sound [aʊə] as in 'our', 'hour', or 'sour', then they will be spelled

identically. If the word is pronounced with a harder sound [feɪvər] as in 'favor', then it probably has a different spelling in each «language.» If in doubt on the spelling, check your dictionary for the American or British spelling.

-ise and -ize and -yse and -yze

These parts of a word are changed from the British *-ise* and *-yse* to the American *-ize* or *-yze* only when the pronunciation has a hard 'z' sound. However, there are some exceptions to this rule, for example:

A British *advertising* agency

An American *advertising* agency

But: A British *advertisement*

An American *advertizement*

An Englishman *criticises* an American.

-BUT-

An American *criticizes* an Englishman.

EXERCISES

Translate any texts you choose from American to British or from British to American. If you need help, see Table 2.

LESSON 2

GRAMMAR

In grammar rules, the British and Americans have the greatest differences, the major ones being with the definite article 'the', several modal verbs as well as the helping verb 'do', single and plural count-nouns, past participle (third form) verb conjugation, passive voice construction, and direct and indirect speech. Let's look at each of these differences individually.

1. Definite Article «THE»

The Americans and British follow the exact same rules in using the definite article «the» with the exception of the following key words:

1. hospital

5. university

2. kindergarten
3. school
4. college

6. prison
7. jail
8. court

The article «the» plays an important role in the person’s location and goal with the above words. The basic rule for both the British and Americans is that if you attend, live, or work in any of these places the definite article «the» is not used. However, if you *visit* one of these places you must use the definite article «the» with only a couple of exceptions according to the American version. Let’s look at each individually. For help see Table 3.

1.1 “HOSPITAL”

Here, the British follow the rule that if you are being cured, the definite article is not used. However, if you visit someone at the hospital, then the definite article is used.

Here, the Americans follow a different rule. Since no one should be in the hospital in a humanitarian sense, it should be considered as a visit, and, therefore, the definite article is used both when being cured and when visiting someone there.

Compare:

British: Mary went to *the* hospital to visit her sick aunt.

(Here the definite article was used because it is not Mary who is ill, but her aunt.)

British: Mary went to hospital because she had an ulcer.

(Here the definite article is not used as it is Mary who is ill.)

American: Mary went to *the* hospital to visit her sick aunt.

American: Mary went to *the* hospital because she had an ulcer.

In the American version we see that the definite article is used in both cases. If one said, «Mary went to the hospital,» the American would have to find out more information from the person who had said the phrase, i.e., «Is Mary ill?» From here the first speaker will have to define why Mary is there (illness or visiting).

1.2. “KINDERGARTEN, SCHOOL, COLLEGE”

Here, the definite article is not used by either the Americans or the British if the goal of being there (kindergarten, school, college) is either to work or to learn. Compare the following sentences:

1. My little brother went to kindergarten yesterday.
2. My little brother went to *the* kindergarten yesterday *to play in the playground*.
3. My mother teaches in kindergarten.
4. My mother went to *the* kindergarten *to see how the children learn*.

In the first and third sentences, it is clear that my little brother went to kindergarten to learn (goal), and my mother went there to teach (purpose).

In the second and fourth sentences, it is clear that my little brother did *not* go there to learn, but to do something else, and, equally, my mother went there *not* to teach, but to witness something else.

These same rules apply not only for *kindergarten*, but also for *school* and *college* in both the American and British languages.

1.3 “UNIVERSITY”

Here the British and Americans disagree. The British follow the same rules that are applied to *kindergarten*, *school*, and *college*, whereas the Americans **always** use the definite article «the» whether or not the person is studying or working or not. Compare the American and British:

British: He went to university for four years.

American: He went to *the* university for four years.

British: He went to *the* university to meet his brother.

American: He went to *the* university to meet his brother.

The explanation of this «phenomenon» is quite simple. In the history of the United States (actually even before the original thirteen states, in the late 1600s) there was only one university in any large colonial area, thus they used the definite article to show that it was the only one (definite) university in their region. Of course, there were other universities in other areas, but it was assumed that what was meant was the university in one’s own region.

For example, if I had lived in Boston, and had said that I had been attending the university, it would have meant that I had been going to the university located in the Boston area (then only one university was in that region).

The use of the definite article from then remained with the Americans and was accepted by the Canadians later.

1.4 “PRISON, JAIL & COURT”

Prison and Jail. The definite article «the» is *not* used when someone is sentenced to remain there for any period of time. However, if I’m not a prisoner and either work there or am visiting someone, the definite article is used.

Court. If a person is involved in any way, shape, or form with a court process, be he a lawyer, bailiff, judge, jury member, witness, accused, or any other responsibility or involvement during a **legal** process, the definite article is *not* used.

Table 3

PLACE	BRITISH		AMERICAN	
	Use <i>the</i> When...	No <i>the</i> When...	Use <i>the</i> When...	No <i>the</i> When...
HOSPITAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the goal of your being there is not for your being cured. ■ the goal is to work there. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ someone has become a patient, visiting a doctor, or is in the process of being cured or operated on. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the definite article must always be used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the definite article must always be used.
KINDER-GARTEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the subject is not a pupil or learning. ■ the subject is not engaged in teaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the subject is a pupil with the goal of learning. ■ the subject is a teacher (or administrator) with the goal of teaching. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the subject is not a pupil or learning. ■ the subject is not engaged in teaching. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the subject is a pupil with the goal of leaning. ■ the subject is a teacher (or administrator) with the goal of teaching.
SCHOOL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the subject is not a pupil or learning. ■ the subject is not engaged in teaching. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the subject is a pupil with the goal of learning. ■ the subject is a teacher (or administrator) with the goal of teaching. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the subject is not a pupil or learning. ■ the subject is not engaged in teaching. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the subject is a pupil with the goal of learning. ■ the subject is a teacher (or administrator) with the goal of teaching.

PLACE	BRITISH		AMERICAN	
	Use <i>the</i> When...	No <i>the</i> When...	Use <i>the</i> When...	No <i>the</i> When...
COLLEGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the subject is not an attending student. ■ the subject is not a teacher, professor, instructor, etc., who is employed there. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the subject is an attending student with the goal of learning. ■ the subject is a staff member involved in the teaching process or otherwise employed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the subject is not an attending student. ■ the subject is not a teacher, professor, instructor, etc., who is employed there. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the subject is an attending student with the goal of learning. ■ the subject is a staff member involved in the teaching process or otherwise employed.
UNIVERSITY	SEE COLLEGE	SEE COLLEGE	The definite article must always be used.	The definite article must always be used.
PRISON	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the subject is not a prisoner ■ the subject is employed or is visiting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the subject is a prisoner for any length of time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the subject is not a prisoner. ■ the subject is employed or is visiting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the subject is a prisoner for any length of time.
JAIL	SEE PRISON	SEE PRISON	SEE PRISON	SEE PRISON
COURT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the subject is a visitor not taking any part in the legal process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the subject is directly involved in the legal process, i.e., has a responsibility or title. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the subject is a visitor not taking any part in the legal process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the subject is directly involved in the legal process, i.e., has a responsibility or title.

2. Modal and Auxilliary (Helpign) Verbs

2.1 “DARE & OUGHT TO”

The modal verbs «dare» and «ought to» are considered to the Americans to be classically British and, therefore, are very seldom, if ever, used. These modal verbs should be substituted for the appropriate «should,» «must,» or «have to» (see note on «must»).

2.2 “MUST”

This modal verb should be treated with care as it is not used as often as the British equivalent. «Must» has only one basic use in American as opposed to the British use. Americans use «must» only when there is a life-threatening reason (for example: You *must* eat to stay alive, You *must* breathe to stay alive, etc.). The reasoning is really quite silly.

Compare:

British: You **must** look before crossing the street.

American: You **should** look before crossing the street.

The reason of the difference is that as an American (and being completely free according to the *Constitution of the United States of America*), if I do not want to do something, I don't have to, as no one can force me to do this. That is, if I choose to cross the street without looking, I may. (Of course, I could die in the process, but it is my choice.)

Be aware that if you use the modal verb «must» incorrectly, a North American will correct you and sarcastically tell you that 'you **must not** tell him what he can or cannot do'.

2.3 “WILL & SHALL”

We all know the «English» rule as to the proper use of «will» and «shall» being that «shall» is used for the first person singular and first person plural pronouns 'I' and 'We', and «will» is used for all the rest of the personal pronouns.

In American «shall» is not used for this purpose. «Shall» is used only in interrogative sentences for the first person singular and plural pronouns; however, most Americans will even use «should» in place of «shall» in asking a question. Even worse, Americans will shorten the pronunciation of «shall» and «should» so that it is pronounced «sh.» See the examples to follow.

The other use of «shall» is in legal and business English. Here «shall» is used for all personal pronouns in contracts, laws, agreements, etc.

As far as direct statements and sentence negations, Americans use «will» for all personal pronouns.

British: We **shall** come tomorrow.

American: We **will** come tomorrow.

British: We **shan't** eat cake tonight.

American: We **won't** eat cake tonight.

British: **Shall** we go to the theatre tomorrow?

American: **Should** we go to the theater tomorrow?

Or: **Sh'** we go to the theater tomorrow?

2.4 INTERROGATIVE AND NEGATIVE STATEMENTS WITH THE VERB «TO HAVE»

Americans use the auxiliary verb 'do' in interrogative and negative statements, whereas British do not.

British: Have you a motorcycle?

American: **Do** you have a motorcycle?

British: I haven't a motorcycle.

American: I **don't** have a motorcycle.

2.5 PLURAL OR SINGULAR VERB CONJUGATION?

Certain «group nouns» in American differ from those in British. By group nouns, we mean here such groups as a committee, jury, government, board of directors, crowd, etc. The British consider these groups as «groups» and, therefore, give them the appropriate plural conjugation of the verb. The Americans, on the other hand, see these groups as a «**single** group» and, therefore, give them the appropriate singular conjugation of the verb. If we speak of other groups (not people), say, for example a group of bees (swarm), mosquitoes (cloud), dogs (pack), or even whales (gam), even the British would agree that they use a singular conjugation of these «groups.»

Examples:

A swarm of bees *was* near the factory.

There *is* a cloud of mosquitoes hovering over the swamp.

A pack of dogs *is* howling in the street.

There *is* a gam of whales swimming from Alaska to Mexico.

If we take these examples into consideration and use these terms for people, then it is obvious why Americans use a singular conjugation for these «special groups.» Compare:

British: The **jury were** discussing the verdict of the accused.

American: The **jury was** discussing the verdict of the accused.

British: The **government have** been debating new taxes.

American: The **government has** been debating new taxes.

British: I presented my plans to the *committee who are* in charge of the conference.

American: I presented my plans to the *committee who is* in charge of the conference.

3. Passive Voice

Even though foreign students studying English despise Passive Voice because of its difficulty, it is a very important part of speech for both the British and Americans and is used quite often in written form and, though less often, orally depending on the educational level of the individual speaking.

The main difference in Passive Voice usage between the British and Americans is the Future Perfect Progressive verb tense, although the British are also beginning to adopt the «American» variant. The British use only 11 of the 12 verb tenses in Passive Voice, whereas the Americans use all 12 verb tenses in Passive Voice.

Active Voice: I will have been reading this book for six weeks by Monday.

Passive Voice: This book will have been being read by me for six weeks by Monday.

4. Prepositions *In* and *On* with Street Names

This rule is quite easy to follow. In regard to streets, avenues, etc., the British are apt to use «in» whereas the Americans will use «on.» Why? The preposition «in» means within something, enclosed by boundaries of some sort (or in the middle of something), and «on» means on top of something (or very near something).

British: The children are playing **in** the street.

American: The children are playing **on** the street.

British: The post office is **in** Bond Street.

American: The post office is **on** Bond Street.

The American listening to the British speaker would understand that the children are playing in the middle of the street (a very dangerous place to play), and likewise, a post office cannot be located in the middle of a street; it should be *near* the street (on the edge of this particular street).

5. Direct and Indirect Speech

Direct and indirect speech in both variants of the English language are almost exactly the same; however, there are also a few differences. The Americans agree with the British when changing the Personal Pronouns, and the changing of 'this' to 'that' and 'these' to 'those' from direct into indirect speech. The Americans, like the British, follow the same rules as to the Sequence of Tenses from direct to indirect speech. The Americans also agree to the change that occurs with the Adverbs of Place, i.e., changing 'here' to 'there'.

The greatest difference is in the Adverbs of Time. Here the British variant is very complex as the Adverbs of Time change from direct to indirect speech. The Americans have made this system much easier and do not follow any changes as they become confused as to **when** the action actually took place. Let's review the **British** grammar rules that correspond to the Adverbs of Time in Table 4 and compare some translations to indirect speech in American and British using Table 5:

Table 4

British Grammar with Adverbs of Time

DIRECT SPEECH	INDIRECT SPEECH CHANGES TO:
NOW	THEN
TODAY	THAT DAY
YESTERDAY	THE DAY BEFORE
LAST WEEK	THE WEEK BEFORE
AGO	BEFORE
TOMORROW	THE NEXT DAY
NEXT WEEK (MONTH, YEAR)	THE FOLLOWING WEEK (MONTH, YEAR)

Table 5

Direct Speech	American	British
1.) He said, «I am going to go home now. »	1a.) He said (that) he was going to go home now.	1b.) He said (that) he was going to go home then.
2.) She said, «I will do the translation today. »	2a.) She said (that) she would do the translation today.	2b.) She said (that) she would do the translation that day.
3.) He said, «I went to the circus yesterday. »	3a.) He said (that) he had gone to the circus yesterday.	3b.) He said (that) he had gone to the circus the day before.
4.) She said, «I was in Paris last week. »	4a.) She said (that) she had been in Paris last week.	4b.) She said (that) she had been in Paris the week before.
5.) He said, «We had the meeting five days ago. »	5a.) He said (that) they had had the meeting five days ago.	5b.) He said (that) they had had the meeting five days before.
6.) She said, «My mother will come tomorrow. »	6a.) She said (that) her mother would come tomorrow.	6b.) She said (that) her mother would come the next day.
7.) He said, «The World-Cup Competition in tennis will be shown next month. »	7a.) He said (that) the World-Cup Competition in tennis would be shown next month.	7a.) He said (that) the World-Cup Competition in tennis would be shown the following month.
8.) She said, «There will be an excellent Russian movie on television next Tuesday. »	8a.) She said (that) there would be an excellent Russian movie on television next Tuesday.	8b.) She said (that) there would be an excellent Russian movie on television the following Tuesday.

Table 5

Direct Speech	American	British
9.) He said, «I watched the football game last Saturday. »	9a.) He said (that) he had watched the soccer* game last Saturday.	9b.) He said (that) he had watched the football game the Saturday before.
10.) She said, «I have been planning the party since last year. »	10a.) She said (that) she had been planning the party since last year.	10b.) She said (that) she had been planning the party since the year before.

In this discussion, let *a* equal American and *b* equal British

From the American point of view as to indirect (reported) speech, there is some confusion as to when a certain action or fact has occurred. From Table 5, it is obvious that the Americans change nothing in regard to the Adverbs of Time. Let's look at each sentence individually.

1. In sentence *a*, it is clear that the original speaker is (now) in the process of leaving. In sentence *b*, the American understands that the process was some time in the past and would ask the question, «When was *then*?»

2. In sentence *a*, «today» means some time during this particular day. Again, in sentence *b*, the American has no idea of which day was «that» day or, more simply, means «some unknown day.»

3. In sentence *a*, it is clear that the original speaker did something 24 hours ago. In sentence *b*, the American would ask, «The day before what?»

4. In sentence *a*, it is understood that the original speaker had done something some time a week ago. In sentence *b*, again we ask the question, «A week before what?»

5. Refer to Number 4.

6. In sentence *a*, the American understands that the process will take place «the day after today.» In sentence *b*, the American would understand that the process will occur **two days after today's date.**

7. In sentence *a*, the American understands that the occurrence will happen during the month after this month has finished. In *b*, we have the question, «After which month?»

8. Refer to Number 7.

*Soccer is the American equivalent of European football, as the Americans refer to *football* as being «American football.»

9. Here, in sentence *a*, «last Saturday» means one Saturday ago and before the upcoming Saturday. Again with *b*, «Before what? Before Christmas? Before my birthday?»

10. Refer to Number 9.

EXERCISES

Translate the following phrases into both British and American. Be ready to compare your translations.

1. Мне сейчас необходимо поехать в больницу навестить свою сестру.

2. Я работал в госпитале пять лет.

3. Девид ненавидел ходить в детский сад.

4. Он и не думал зайти в детский сад и забрать нашего малыша.

5. Я очень хотел учиться в этом университете.

6. Диана училась в университете пять лет.

7. Мэри была лучшей ученицей в школе.

8. В нашей школе работали два администратора.

9. Вы преподаете в колледже, не так ли?

10. И все-таки, ты учишься в университете или в колледже?

11. Полиция доставила обвиняемого в тюрьму.

12. Она провела в тюрьме два года.

13. Суд проводил заседание целый день.

14. Адвокат заходил в суд два раза в неделю.

15. У вас есть кофемолка?

16. Мы пойдем в кино сегодня вечером или завтра?

17. Жюри присяжных так и не вынесло вердикт.

18. Я обязательно закончу это дело за месяц к Новому году.

19. В детстве мы часто играли в футбол на улице.

20. Я спросил его: «Ты был вчера на премьере фильма?»

21. Он сказал: «На прошлой неделе я ходил по магазинам.»

22. Она сказала: «Мы проводили опрос населения в прошлом году».

23. Он сказал: «Завтра мы поедем на футбольный матч.»

LESSON 3

1. TIME AND SIZES

1.1. Time

Time is a very interesting phenomenon in English. Time is the same in all areas of the world; however, even here the British and Americans differ in their understanding of time. The most obvious is the phrase «fortnight,» as an American does not know what a «fortnight» is. The American would state this phrase in one of three ways: a half a month, two weeks, or 14 days. The British would understand the American, but this understanding is not mutual.

Moreover, the Americans tend to use time in its exemplified stage, i.e., two days would become 48 hours because «48 hours» sounds much longer than a mere «two» days. The same is the case in several idiomatic expressions. Where the British are «up to their necks in paperwork,» the Americans increase this level a bit higher and Americans are «up to their ears in paperwork.» The same goes for time.

Do not be surprised if an American uses a large number to define how long something has occurred (or is/has been occurring). Let's look at the following ways that British and Americans express time.

British: It will take us **a month and a half** to complete the project.

American: It will take us **six weeks** to complete the project.
-OR- It will take us **45 days** to complete the project.

British: He has been working in our company for **three years**.

American: He has been working in our company for **36 months**.

(Usually Americans will not use days if it is more than three months or longer.)

British: We stayed in Germany *a fortnight*.

American: We stayed in Germany for *two weeks*.

-OR- We stayed in Germany for *fourteen days*.

-OR- We stayed in Germany for *half a month*.

(Here we notice that the word «month» sounds much longer than «weeks» or «days.»)

Do not be misled thinking that the British and Americans do not understand one another (with the exception of «fortnight»); the British will often only laugh at the American, thinking that the American is trying to brag or exaggerate. What should be remembered is that in translating or speaking with an American or an Englishman, you might find that you must do some

quick mathematics to understand the American, and not use the word «fortnight» when addressing an American as he will not understand you.

1.2. Measurements (weight, liquid, linear, etc.)

For the foreign student studying English in terms of measurement, it is quite easy to translate and understand the Metric System. The problem is that the British use both miles and kilometers, i.e., both the «metric» and «standard» systems of measurement. The Americans do not know what a «kilometer» is as the United States of America is the only nation that uses «Standard Measurements,» and here is the major problem in speaking and understanding one another. In the mid-1970s there was an attempt to convert the American standards of measurement to the Metric system; however, it was confusing as the population was already accustomed to the «standard» measurements. Unfortunately, during this process many children, as well as their parents and teachers, became very confused with measurements, and this conversion was abandoned.

Table 6

Linear Measurements

Unit (abbreviation)	Metric Equivalent	Notes
1 inch (in.)	2.54 centimeters	1 mm = 0.03937 in. 1 cm = 0.3937 in. 1 dm = 3.937 ins.
1 foot (ft.)	0.3048 meter	12 inches = 1 foot 1 m = 3.2808 ft.
1 yard (yd.)	0.9144 meter	3 feet = 1 yard 1 m = 1.0936 yds.
1 rod (rod)*		5 1/2 yds. = 1 rod
1 furlong (fur.)*		40 rods = 1 fur.
1 mile (mi.)	1.6093 kilometers	1760 yards = 1 mile 8 furs. = 1 mi. 1 km = 0.62137 mis.

The easiest way to **approximate** the equivalent linear measurements from «Standard» to «Metric» are as follows:

1 inch = 2.5 centimeters

1 foot = 31 centimeters

1 yard = 92 centimeters

1 mile = 1.6 kilometers

1 cm. = 3/4 inch

1 dm. = 4 inches

1 m. = 3 ft. 1 3/4 inches

1 km. = 0.62 mile

*These linear measurements are very rarely used.

Table 7

Liquid Measurement

Unit (abbreviation)	Metric	Notes
1 fluid ounce (fl. oz.)	29.573 ml	
1 cup	2.36 cl.	8 fl. oz. = 1 cup
1 pint (pt.)	0.47 l.	2 cups = 1 pt.
1 quart (qt.)	0.946 l.	2 pts. = 1 qt.
1 gallon (gal.)	3.7854 l.	4 qts. = 1 gal.
1 barrel (bbl.)		31 1/2 gals. = 1 bbl.
1 hogshead *		2 bbls. = 1 hogshead 63 gals. = 1 hogshead

*This liquid measurement is very rarely used as barrels are preferred.

The easiest way to **approximate** the equivalent liquid (and dry) measurements from «Standard» to «Metric» are as follows:

1 cup = 2.36 cl.	1.18 cl. = 1/2 cup
1 pint = 1/2 liter	1/2 liter = 1 pint
1 quart = 1 liter	1 liter = 1 quart
1 gallon = 3 3/4 liters	3.75 liters = 1 gallon

Table 8

Weight Measurement

Unit (abbreviation)	Metric	Notes
1 dram*	1.771875 g.	1 dram = 1/16 oz.
1 ounce (oz.)	28.350 g.	1 oz. = 16 drams
1 pound (lb.) (#)	0.4536 kg. 2.2046 lbs. = 1 kg.	1 lb. = 16 oz.
1 short hundredweight (cwt)**		1 cwt. = 100 lbs.
1 ton (ton)***		1 ton = 20 cwt. 1 ton = 2,000 lbs.

*This weight is very rarely used and usually by chemists, doctors and pharmacists.

The easiest way to **approximate** the equivalent weight measurements from «Standard» to «Metric» are as follows:

1 kilogram = 2.2 pounds

1 pound = 0.45 kg.

Table 9

Temperature Measurements

TEMPERATURE	CENTIGRADE (C) CELCIUS	FAHRENHEIT (F)
Normal Body Temperature	36.6 C	98.6 F
Freezing Temperature (water)	0 C	32 F
Boiling Temperature (water)	100 C	212 F

In order to transfer from Celcius to Fahrenheit or vice versa, use the following formula:

$$C = \frac{5}{9} (F - 32)$$

or easier $C = 0.55(F - 32)$

Example: It is 25 C in Moscow. How warm is it in Fahrenheit?

$$25 = 0.55(F - 32)$$

$$25 = 0.55F - 17.6$$

$$25 + 17.6 = 0.55F$$

$$42.6 = 0.55F$$

$$F = 42.6 : 0.55$$

$$F = 77.4$$

So, the temperature is 77.4 Fahrenheit.

Example: It is -10 C in Moscow. How cold is it in Fahrenheit?

$$-10 = 0.55(F - 32)$$

$$-10 = 0.55F - 17.6$$

$$F = -7.6 * 0.55$$

$$F = -4.18$$

So, in Moscow it is -4.18 F.

**This weight is very rarely used as Americans will use «300 lbs.» Instead of «3 cwt.» or «1/2 ton» instead of «5 cwt.»

Here the Americans and British differ in weights as a British hundredweight is equal to 112 pounds.

***One **British** ton (tonne) is equal to 2,240 pounds.

Note: The British also use «stone» which is equivalent to 14 pounds.

Example: It is 80 F in New York. How warm is it in Celsius?

$$C = 0.55(80 - 32)$$

$$C = 0.55 * 48$$

$$C = 26.4$$

So, in New York it is 26.4 C.

Example: It is 12 F in New York. How cold is it in Celsius?

$$C = 0.55(12 - 32)$$

$$C = 0.55 * -20$$

$$C = -11$$

So, in New York it is -11 C.

EXERCISES

1. It is 5C in Moscow. How cold is it in Fahrenheit? _____

It is 20F in Texas. How cold is it in Celsius? _____

2. Find the equivalent:

$$2500 \text{ C} = \dots\dots\dots \text{ F}$$

$$-33 \text{ C} = \dots\dots\dots \text{ F}$$

$$40 \text{ C} = \dots\dots\dots \text{ F}$$

$$\dots\dots\dots \text{ C} = 56 \text{ F}$$

$$\dots\dots\dots \text{ C} = 1440 \text{ F}$$

$$\dots\dots\dots \text{ C} = 10 \text{ F}$$

$$-1 \text{ C} = \dots\dots\dots \text{ F}$$

$$0 \text{ C} = \dots\dots\dots \text{ F}$$

$$\dots\dots\dots \text{ C} = -5 \text{ F}$$

2. MONEY AND MONETARY UNITS

In Russia there are only two monetary units; the ruble and the kopeck. In the United States and in Great Britain there is a name for each denomination of a coin. Between these two countries there is also two completely currencies; the **pound** in England and the **dollar** in America (see Table 10).

First let us define the denominations of the British currency which consists of the following: penny (plural - pence), sixpence, shilling, pound.

The **penny** is the smallest denomination in the British currency system.

The **sixpence** is equal to six pence (or six pennies).

The **shilling** is equal to 12 pence (12 pennies) or two sixpence.

The **pound** is equal to 20 shillings, or 120 sixpence, or 240 pence (240 pennies).

There is a term used by the British «quid» which is a slang term meaning one pound. The equivalent to this term in American would be «buck.» The slang term «buck» in the American currency system comes from a more or less interesting history. «Buck» is short for *sawbuck* which is an instrument (more like a table) on which boards are sawn. In the historical beginning of America, the numerical system (as in almost all other countries) consisted of Roman numerals, i.e., I, IV, V, X, XV, etc. If we look at the number ten in Roman numerals (X), it is very similar in construction (as it is written) to the instrument on which boards are sawn; therefore, «ten bucks» was called a «sawbuck.» Since the number five in Roman numerals (V) is similar to the upper half of this instrument, it was called «five bucks,» and is now used for all bank notes from \$1 to \$100.

The American currency system is a bit different and consists of: penny, nickel, dime, quarter, half dollar, and (silver) dollar. All remaining denominations that are greater than a dollar are in bank notes (\$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100). There were other denominations in bank notes in the past such as \$500, \$1,000, \$10,000, \$20,000, \$50,000, \$100,000, and \$1,000,000; however, these have disappeared from circulation.

The **penny** is copper-colored (made of copper) and is the smallest denomination, and is equal to one cent, or 1/100th of \$1.

The **nickel** is equal to five cents (pennies), or 1/20th of \$1.

The **dime** is equal to 10 cents (pennies), or two nickels, or 1/10th of \$1.

The **quarter** is equal to 25 cents (pennies), or one *quarter* of \$1. There is also an old name for the quarter which is «two bits,» equivalent to 12 1/2 cents. This name is usually used for certain idiomatic expressions, such as «I couldn't get my two bits in.» (*This expression means that I wasn't allowed to speak my mind during the discussion.*)

The **half-dollar** is just that, i.e., 50 cents, or half a dollar.

The (silver) **dollar** is equal to \$1.

The size of these coins, as opposed to their actual worth, is somewhat abnormal.

The coin smallest in size and in diameter (not worth) is the dime, then in order, the penny, the nickel, the quarter, the half-dollar, and the dollar.

Table 10

British Monetary Unit	British Coin Equivalents	American Monetary Unit	American Coin Equivalents	Exchange Rates (British Pence/Pound to American Cents/Dollar)
Penny	N/A	Penny	N/A	1 Penny = 1.16 Cents
Sixpence	6 Pence 1/2 Shilling	Nickel	Five Pennies	6 Pence = 7 Cents
Shilling	12 Pence 2 Sixpence	Dime Quarter Half-dollar	Five Pennies Two Nickels 25 Pennies Five Nickels 50 Pennies	1 Shilling = 14 Cents 25 Cents = 1 Shilling & 11 Pence 50 Cents = 3 Shillings & 8 Pence
Pound «Quid»	240 Pence 20 Shillings	Dollar «Buck»	100 Pennies	1 Pound = \$2.40

3. CLOTHING SIZES

Clothing sizes are quite difficult as there are British, Russian (European), and American sizes. These sizes are especially difficult in the United States as there are different sizes for men and women, as well as for children (boys and girls), including different shoe sizes, shirt (blouse) sizes, suit sizes, skirt sizes (for women), sock sizes (for men), stocking sizes (for women), jacket sizes, ring sizes, hat sizes, etc.

3.1 Men

Pants

In order to measure pants, slacks, or jeans, men are measured in *inches* according to two different measurements, namely around the waist (around the top of the hip bone) and the inseam (from the crotch to the ankle). If you look at a pair of jeans (American made, i.e., *Levi's*), you will notice two numbers, e.g., 30/36. These numbers mean that these particular jeans are made for a man who has a 30-inch waist and a 36-inch inseam.

Shirts

In order to measure shirts, it is a bit more difficult. Usually dress shirts are measured in three measurements: by the circumference of the collar (around the neck just under the Adam's apple), the circumference of the

chest (under the armpits and across the nipples), and the length of the arm (from the shoulder joint to just beyond the wrist joint). Shirts are usually sold according to the collar, which is usually shown in two digits (for example, 40-42), which means this particular shirt will fit loosely on a man with a 40-inch neck and will be a bit tight for a man having a 42-inch neck. The next measurement will be the length of the arm. These measurements are usually shown as: XS (extra small, i.e., very short arms), S (small, i.e., short arms), M (medium, i.e., normal-length arms), L (large, i.e., long arms), XL (extra large, i.e., longer than normal arms), and XXL (extra-extra large, i.e., extremely long arms). For most men these two measurements are adequate enough to make a nice fit, not taking into consideration the chest measurement. The chest measurement is usually used for hand-made shirts, or is a consideration for sportsmen (body-builders, basketball players, football players, etc.) whose chest is larger than that of a 'normal' man.

Shoes & Socks (Sox)

Men's shoe sizes are measured in a standing position, and in inches (12 inches equals one foot, therefore the measurement 'foot'). In comparison to British standards, the American measurements are approximately one-half size larger. See Table 11 for comparisons with Russian, British and American shoe sizes. Socks are sold according to shoe size; therefore, if you do not know what size shoe someone wears, you cannot buy socks for him.

Table 11

Shoe Sizes (approximate)

<i>Russian</i>	<i>British</i>	<i>American</i>
41.5	7 1/2	8
42	8	8 1/2
42.5	8 1/2	9
43	9	9 1/2
43.5	9 - 9 1/2	10
44	9 1/2	10 1/2
44.5	10	11
45	10 1/2	11 1/2

Underwear

Men's 'briefs' are usually measured by the circumference of the waist in inches, or in general terms, i.e., small, medium, large.

In summary, most American men sizes are measured in inches.

3.2 Women

Women's clothing is much more difficult and in no way coincides with menswear.

Shoes & Stockings

Women's shoe sizes are basically pretty simple; they are usually expressed as two sizes smaller than a man's for the same size. So, for example, if a man wears a size 9 in shoes, and a woman has the same size foot, then she will wear a size 7 (refer to Table 11 for help). For stockings «names» of sizes are usually used, i.e., petite (extra small), queen (a bit larger than normal), to extra-queen size (for obese women).

Underwear

Women's 'panties' are usually measured in general terminology such as petite, small, medium, large, and extra large. Brassieres, on the other hand are a bit more specific. First of all, there is usually a number, which corresponds to the measurement around the chest under the armpits in inches. The next measurement is noted in letters from A to D, which is the circumference of each breast. These letters are also divided into AAA (triple A), AA (double A), and A (the same for B, C, and D sizes). The single 'A' is the smallest circumference of the breast of that particular size, and AAA is the largest of the small-breasted size. These sizes continue up to the 'D-category' which is considered to be quite large. Again a 'D' is the smallest circumference of that particular category and a DDD (triple D) is really quite large. (For larger circumferences, a 'quadruple-D' (DDDD) or even an 'E' is used, though this is quite rare.)

Dresses and Suits

These measurements are defined in terms of numerals. The average American woman (very nicely built, not heavy, not having large hips, or a large bust) wears a size 7. A very thin woman would wear a size 2 or 3, and a large woman would wear a size 10-12. There are cases when women wear a 'size 0' or even smaller (-1, -2, etc.), or on the other side of the scale a 15-20; however, again, these sizes are quite rare.

3.3 Children's wear

Children's wear is usually measured according to age for both boys and girls, and numerical sizes are not used except for footwear.

LESSON 4

In this lesson we will investigate, listen to and discuss differences in meanings between the Americans and British in dialog form. There are several hundreds of words and phrases that are used that need to be rephrased depending on who you are speaking to. Here are some examples:

BRITISH

1) Could you look under the **bonnet**? I'm afraid there's something wrong with the battery.

2) I think the **lorry** has got a flat **tyre**.

3) I thought you *had got* rid of that old **pullover**.

4) I think his **cabinet** is on the **third floor**.

5) In order to get there, you should take the **lift**.

AMERICAN

1) Could you look under the **hood**? I'm afraid there's something wrong with the battery. (*In American, a bonnet is a woman's hat usually worn on Easter.*)

2) I think the **truck** has a flat (*The word 'lorry' in American sounds like the name 'Lori', and they use 'truck' all the time.*)

3) I thought you *had gotten* rid of that old **sweater**. (*Americans use a different Perfect for the verb 'to get' if it usually does not mean 'to receive'. The Americans follow the system of 'to forget', i.e., forget-forgot-forgotten, get-got-gotten. 'To pull over' means to stop one's car alongside the road.*)

4) I think his **office** is on the **second floor**. (*Cabinet in American is a storage place for foodstuffs or dishes. Americans count the «ground floor» as the first floor. Also, in most tall buildings that have over 14 floors, the thirteenth floor is usually skipped because of superstitions associated with the number 13.)*

5) In order to get there, you should take the **elevator**. (*A lift in American means to drive someone somewhere by car.*)

- 6) I have a meeting with the **chief** this morning at 10:00. 6) I have a meeting with the **boss** (director) this morning at 10:00. (*Chief means the head of an Indian tribe.*)
- 7) He retired from the **firm** two years ago. 7) He retired from the **company** two years ago. (*Firm in American means consistency or stable.*)
- 8) Could you tell me the **sum** number of students in this group? 8) Could you tell me the **total** number of students in this group? (*Americans understand 'sum' as 'some', which dramatically changes the meaning of this sentence.*)
- 9) My presentation **went like a bomb!** 9) My presentation **went incredibly well!** (*To go like a bomb in American means to be very bad or unsuccessful.*)
- 10) While you're out would you buy me some **fags**? 10) While you're out would you buy me some **smokes**? (*A fag in American is a very rude word for a male homosexual.*)
- 11) If you have time, come over and **knock me up**. 11) If you have time, come on over and **visit**. (*The phrase 'to knock someone up' means to accidentally impregnate someone and is considered a very rude expression.*)

 Now listen to the following dialogs between an American and Englishman and try to understand their misunderstandings.

LESSON 5

REVISION

Revise all material of the unit in preparation for the test.

**BRITISH-AMERICAN
DICTIONARY**

A to Zed A to Z

absey book primer

absolutely top hole super-duper

acid drop lemon drop

ack-emma and pip-emma A.M. and P.M. (*names devised by British Army signallers*)

ag English (*tennis term, short for «agony;» that is, giving the ball a spin to make it unreturnable*)

Put some ag on the ball!

Ah, there you are! Hi, glad to see you!

air jacket May West (*life jacket*)

alamode (*beef that is larded and stewed with vegetables: (US) pie topped with ice cream*)

alarm calls wake up calls (*at a hotel*)

Albert, an (*short watch chain like the one Prince Albert wore*)

all at one go all at once

all the same just the same

alphabet bricks alphabet blocks

altitude nil altitude zero

American cloth, glazed tablecloth oil cloth

anorak parka

anti-clockwise counter-clockwise

Are you black or white? How do you like your coffee? (*With milk or without?*)

argy-bargy fuss

arrested pinched

As if I bloody well cared! As if I gave a hoot!

as like him as she can stare as like him as she can be

as near as dammit as close as can be

as right as a trivet as right as rain

as she comes straight: Want some rum, dash of orange or straight.

ash pan ash tray

Ask me no questions, hear no lies. Ask me no questions, I'll tell you no lies.

assembly-room public ballroom

at cost price at cost

at the head of the poll winner of an election

aubergine, brinjal, egg fruit, brown jolly eggplant

Baby's dummy pacifier

back chat back talk

backacting trencher back hoe

back-kick side effects (*of medicine*)

backalong a while back: I worked with her a while back.

backing-down gold-bricking (*shirking work*)

bad form bad manners

bad lot, a a no good

Bad cess to them! Bad luck to them!

Bad show! Tough going!

bag grab: I'll buy your ticket and grab some seats.

baker's board, moulding board bread board (*for kneading dough*)

baker's shop bakery

balaclavas woolen caps (*name taken from the warm woolen headgear covering the ears and back of the head during the severe cold weather in the Crimean War*)

ball is at one's feet ball is in one's lap (*decision time*)

bang on right on the nose, right on the money, right on target

banker's order bank check

banking account bank account

banknote bill

barmaid, barman bartender

barrier train gate (*at a railroad station*)

base minded dirty minded

bashing squandering: They don't go squandering all their money.

batchy terrible

bath safety rail bathtub security rail

bath-tap bathtub faucet

bath-wrap terry robe

bathroom and lavatory (*usually two separate rooms; the bathroom is for baths and has a tub and washbasin; the lavatory is called the loo or W.C. - Water Closet*)

bathroom basin, washhand basin washbasin, bathroom sink

baths, swimming baths pool, swimming pool

bath bathtub

bathing costume bathing suit, swimsuit

bathroom basin bathroom sink

be a candidate run for office

be darned shot be damned: What women see in him, I'll be damned if I know!

be hard done by be treated badly

be in a bit of a cleft stick be in a bind

be in low water be short (*lacking essential money*)

be lumbered with be saddled with

be on form doing very well

bear a hand give a hand

bear the bell, carry off the bell come in first

beastly weather, filthy weather miserable weather

beastly terrible

beat to sticks beat to the ground

beavered slaved: He slaved at polishing my brass.

bed sitter, combined room studio apartment

Beetle off! Stuff it! Push off! Cut it out! Knock it off!

beetled rushed: He rushed off.

beetroot beets

bespoke suit, hand-cut suit custom made suit

Best of British luck! Good luck! (*«Best of British,» without «luck» is usually satirical.*)

between two lights (*under cover of darkness*)

betty, a a man who does woman's work

bicycle bin bicycle basket

bicycle lamp bicycle headlight

big pot, a a big shot (*a show off*)

billycock fedora (*man's hat*)

bird table bird feeder

bird-witted dimwitted

bird chick (*slang for «young woman»*)

Birthday Honours (*honours, titles such as Sir, etc., granted on the monarch's birthday*)

biscuit packet cookie box

biscuit (sweet) cookie

biscuit (savoury) cracker

black as ink black as coal

black in the face blue in the face

blackleg strike breaker

Blimey! Goodness!

bloody awful terrible

bloody awkward patch, a bad spot: We may be in a bad spot.

bloody marvelous fantastic: It was a fantastic way to let off steam.

bloody stupid damned dumb: Don't be so damned dumb!

blooming miserable: It's a miserable waste of energy!

blower horn (*slang for telephone*)
Blue Book (*parliamentary publication with a blue cover; (US) a social register*)
boards, the the stage
bobby dazzler a great soccer player (*soccer is called «football» in the UK*)
bobby-horse hobby-horse (*a horse on a merry-go-round*)
bog, loo the john (*a toilet*)
bomb, a (*an excellent play (US) a failure*)
boob make a booboo: Did I make a booboo?
book-account (*an account of debt or credit in a bankbook*)
book-post book mailing
booking-board reservations list
booking-clerk ticket seller
booking office ticket office
book tally, book token book gift certificate
boot-button eyes shoe button eyes
bootlace tie string tie
bootlace shoelace, shoestring
bored rigid bored stiff
bore gauge: He used a 12 gauge shotgun.
bottle party BYOB party (*Bring Your Own Booze party*)
bottle-slider (*tray for passing a decanter round the table*)
bounder cad
braces suspenders
brackets parenthesis
bread corn wheat
break a lance with enter into a contest with
break-up school vacation
breast the tape break the tape (*touching the stretched line at the end of a foot race*)
brekker breakfast
brick-tea (*tea pressed into bricks*)
brimstone and treacle sulphur and molasses
British plate German silver
broly bumbershoot (*umbrella*)
Buck House (*Buckingham Palace*)
buckwheat (*used in Europe as feed for horses cattle and poultry; (US) ground into flour for pancakes called «buckwheats.»*)
Building Society Savings and Loan Bank
build-up trays stacking trays (*in an office*)
bullion van armored car
bullock's heart papaw
bullyrag badger
bum-freezer (*slang for a short evening jacket*)

bumping race (*race where boats bump each other*)
bunch of fives knuckle sandwich (*the fist*)
bun sweet roll
burning glass magnifying glass
bush telegraph, the the grapevine (*slang for gossip*)
busman bus driver
batter boat (*pot holding melted butter*)
butterine (*margarine made partly from milk*)
butter muslin cheesecloth
buttery wine storeroom
buttonhole boutonniere

C. A., Chartered Accountant CPA, Certified Public Accountant

C.P., Clerk of the peace JP, Justice of the Peace

cabbage, to to purloin

cadge a lift to hook a ride

cake cookie, sweet roll

call over the coals, haul over the coals rake over the coals

camelcloth coat camel hair coat

cami-knicker teddy, teddy briefer

champion pinks

can't make tops or bottoms of it can't make heads or tails of it

can't stick it can't take it

capital murder capital offense

Capital! Great!

capsicum peppers

careers master guidance counselor

carriage forward payment on delivery

carriage-paid prepaid delivery

carried the can was a patsy

cashiered, sacked, got one's cards, got the books, got to the wall, got the bucket let go, got the ax, was fired

cash on the nail cash on the barrelhead

cast one's water urinalysis

caster sugar granulated sugar

Casualty Ward Accident Ward

catapult slingshot

catch a lift hitchhike

cat's mustache, the the cat's meow

chair organ choir organ

chamber fellow school roommate

chance-found found by chance

changing room locker room
chapel master music director, conductor
charabanc, tourist bus tour bus
charley, a (*short triangular beard like that of Charles I*)
chat up get to know: You should get to know that new girl.
chatting acquaintance nodding acquaintance
checquebook checkbook
checque check
cheek nerve: She has a lot of nerve to come to you about this.
Cheers! Bottoms up!
Cheery-o! Cheery bye! So long! Bye Bye!
cheeseparing cost cutting
Chemist Drugstore
cherry fizz cherry soda
chew the cud chew the fat
chicory endive
chimney pot hat top hat
chine of beef rib roast
chippy (*fish and chips shop; (US) prostitute*)
chips (*french fries: (US) potato chips*)
chivvied bounced around: We were bounced around from camp to camp.
chuck up throw up
chucker-out bouncer
chunter chatter
church rate weekly offering
Church Army Salvation Army
Church Parade Easter Parade (*fashion parade after Easter services*)
cinema, the pictures movies
cistern, flush box toilet tank
City Guarantee Society Bankers Insurance Company
clamper botch up
clanger boner (*faux pas*)
clay pigeon shooting trap shooting
clean as a new pin clean as a pin
clean someone's clock punch someone in the face
Clearing Banks Bank Clearing Houses
clever dicks smart alics
cleverer than one looks smarter than one looks
Cloak Room Rest Room
cloakroom ticket baggage check
Clock Golf (*putting game on a green marked like a clock dial in which the player putts from each hour-figure to a hole near the center*)
close cul-de-sac

close time closed season (*illegal hunting season*)
close-stool commode
clothespeg clothespin
co-op foodhall co-op market
coach bus
cobs of maize corncobs
cock-a-hoop, over the moon, in high feather pleased as punch: You must have been pleased as punch on getting that raise.
cocked snooks thumbed one's nose
coffee morning coffee klatch
cold house cold frame
collar stiffener collar stay
collected gathered up: She gathered up the cups.
collection bag collection box (*in a church*)
college cap mortar board
colour washing water paint
come over queer feel wierd suddenly
come the innocent play the innocent
comedy chat comedy routine
comic turn comic act
comings in, the income
commercial room (*hotel room set aside for commercial travelers*)
Committee on Safety of Medicines Food and Drug Administration, FDA
Commissioner For Oaths Notary Public
Common Ward Ward (*of a hospital*)
conchie conscientious
constituency voting district
constituents voters
cook-shop restaurant
cooker stove
cookery book cookbook
cooking chocolate baking chocolate
copped a basinful had it: Your brother looks as if he's had it.
copped caught, arrested
coppice small grove of trees
corgettes zucchini, squash
cork drip-mat coaster
corn flour (*finely ground maize, rice or other grain*)
cornet ice cream cone
corn flags gladiolas
cornflour comstarch
corn grain of any kind

cost a packet cost an arm and a leg: His boat must have cost an arm and a leg.

cost-free, free cost free of charge

cost-sale house wholesale firm

costermonger's cart fruit peddler's truck

costing meeting financial meeting: I have a long financial meeting this morning.

cottage loaf (*loaf of bread that resembles a small loaf sitting atop a large loaf*)

cotton reel spool of thread

cotton wool cotton

cough sweets, throat pastilles cough drops

council school public school

counter clerk teller, bank clerk

counter foil ticket stub

country baps (*rolls resembling hamburger buns*)

County Town County Seat

coupe (*half compartment on British railroad cars*)

courgettes, marrow, vegetable marrow zucchini, squash

court shoes pumps

coverts thickets

cow gum rubber cement

cow heel (*ox-foot stewed to a jelly*)

cowardly custard chicken or yellow

Cox's orange pippin (*eating apple*)

cracking perfect: It's a perfect day!

crack-jaw jaw breaker (*word that's difficult to pronounce*)

crackling dottle drivel

crafty 48, a (*British army term for two days leave*)

crash tender emergency truck

crashing howlers bad mistakes (*in grammar*)

crazy paving flagstone walk

crinkly, the paper money

crisps potato chips

croaker, a a killer

crockery dishes

crocodile-skin handbag alligator bag

cross-grained crabby

cross-head screwdriver Phillips screwdriver

cross-sill sleeping ear (*on a train*)

crummy (*cow with a crumpled horn: (US) cheap or miserable*)

crumpet English muffin

cruncher, the the punchline

cup-tie (*one of a series of games to determine the winners of a cup*)
cupman drinking buddy
cups (*various summer drinks containing alcohol diluted with water*)
current account checking account
curriculum vitae school transcript
curtain-up curtain time (*in a theatre*)
cushy number easy job
cut-price wine shops cut-rate liquor stores
cut-throat razor straight razor
cutting by cutting ahead (*of another car*)

Dabs fingerprints

dabster expert: When it came to making something out of nothing, he was an expert.
damn box-up damned foul-up: The whole thing was a damned foul-up.
darbies hand cuffs
dashed clever darned clever
dead latches dead bolts
dead meat (*meat ready for market*)
dead men (*empty bottles after a carouse*)
dead men's bells foxglove
deaf aid hearing aid
decent sort a good fellow
decent tea (*one with lots of food*)
deepie 3-D movie
dekko, a a look: Let's have a look at her.
Delinquent Notice Overdraft
demerara sugar brown sugar
desk porter desk clerk
devilling research: Can you do a bit of research for me?
dextrose made from maize corn-sugar
dialling tone dial tone
dicey chancey
dickey rumble seat (*on a car*)
digestive biscuits graham crackers
digs furnished apartments, houses
Dining Hall Lunch Room (*in a school*)
dinner gong dinner bell
Directory Inquiries Telephone Book
Disabled Soldiers Institute Veterans Hospital
dish of tea cup of tea
dished dumped: She was very happy she had dumped him.

dishy foxy (*glamorous*)
diving kit diving gear
do affair: I'm going to the charity affair.
doctor's stuff medicine
doctor's tackle doctor's black bag
dodges tricks: He's up to all sorts of tricks.
dog kennel cubby hole (*tiny office*)
dog sick sick as a dog
Dog's chance! Fat chance!
doing a locum (*substituting for a doctor or minister*)
doing sweet all doing nothing
dolly-catch (*an easy catch*)
Don't gnaw more than you can chomp. Don't bite off more than you can chew.
Don't muck about! Don't mess around!
donkey food bran (*bran breakfast cereal*)
Don (*a Fellow in a college or a college authority*)
doorkeeper doorman
Dorothy bag drawstring bag
double cream heavy cream
double glazing storm windows
Down-Line (*railroad line leading from a town center; an **Up-Line** does the opposite*)
doyley doiley
draining board drain board
dram drink; Care for a drink?
draper dry goods store
draught excluder weather stripping
draughts checkers
draw cuts cast lots
drawing pins thumbtacks
dressed to the nines, dressed up like a dog's pillow dressed to the teeth, dressed up like the cat's meow
drinks trolley drinks cart
dry file wet blanket, party pooper
drop a clanger, drop a spanner in the works, drop a brick pull a boner, drop a wrench in the works, make a boo-boo
drug-taker drug addict: He's a confirmed drug addict.
duck's egg (*the zero «0» on a scoring sheet which indicates that a player made no runs*)
dudder second hand clothing store
duds (*poor or ragged clothes; (US) clothes of any kind*)
dumb brick dumb bunny

dumb piano soundless keyboard

dust cart garbage truck

dustbin garbage can

E
Earbob earring

earlap ear muff

earnest money, earnest penny (*a pledge*)

Education Rates School Taxes

egg-glass egg timer

egg-powder powdered eggs

eggbeater chopper (*helicopter*)

eggler butter-and-egg man

Egyptian pea chickpea

eiderdown comforter

elastic knitted textile fabric stockinet

elastoplast, sticking plaster bandaid, adhesive bandage

election agent campaign manager

electiontide election time

electric flex electric cord

emulsion latex paint

enclosed order of nuns cloistered nuns

engaged tone busy signal (*telephone*)

engine driver engineer (*on a railroad*)

enjoying it frightfully having a ball

essence extract

estate agent realtor

evanescent ink, sympathetic ink invisible ink

evenfall dusk

Evergreen Clubs Golden Years Clubs

exchange line telephone

excisement tax collectors

ex-directory unlisted (*telephone*)

exhibitioner scholarship winner

export rejects seconds

express goods fast freight

eye bath eye cup

F
Face flannel face cloth

fagged worn out

faggotist bassonist

faggots sausages

fags coffin nails (*cigarettes*)
fairy lights Christmas tree lights
fal-lals doo-dads
family saloon family car
fancy dive swan dive
fancy fair, fete bazaar
fancy goods showy materials
fancy man pimp
fancy woman mistress, prostitute
fast handed close-fisted
favour (*knot of ribbons worn at an election or wedding*)
fed up to the back teeth fed up to the teeth
feeling a bit dicky feeling a bit off the weather
feeling chuft feeling flush (*from receiving lots of money*)
feeling fit feeling ok
financial boffins financial wizards
find one's feet get back on one's feet
fire raising arson: Firemen were standing by in case arson was reported.
Fire ahead! Fire away! Talk!
Fire Brigade Fire Department
first floor (*the floor above the groundfloor; (US) the second floor*)
fish and chips twice (*a double order*)
fish cake fish croquette
fish fingers fish sticks
fishmongers fish store
fit as a flea fit as a fiddle
fitted carpet wall-to-wall carpet
Fiver (*five pounds in British money*)
fixture (*an appointment; (US) a wall lamp*)
flag flapper flag waver
flaming good great: That's great!
flapjack (*oatmeal pancake; (US) batter griddlecake or pancake*)
flat apartment
flesh brush back scrubber
flipping a wiper waving a hankie
flipping miserable: It was a miserable debacle.
flogging a dead horse beating a dead horse
flóg peddle: He was off to peddle the stuff he'd been stealing.
fly-fisher fly-fisherman
fold-up bed cot
foolscap size letter size
football soccer
footballer soccer player

footmarks footprints
footway path
for a donkey's years for ages
fork supper casserole, one-dish meal
form (*a long seat or a bench; a school class*)
Fours or Fourses (*snack taken at four o'clock*)
foxed looped (*drunk*)
freak-peeps freak shows (*at a fair*)
free fisher (*one who has permission to fish in certain waters*)
free list complimentary ticket list (*list of persons admitted free to a theatre*)
free pub (*a pub that offers many brands of beer; «tied pubs» sell only one brand being tied, so to speak, to one producer*)
french-bean kidney bean, butter bean
French plum prune
French bed day bed
fresher freshman
frightfully brilliant brainy
frock dress
frogman suit wetsuit
froth-blower (*beer drinker*)
fruit gum machine chewing gum machine
fruit jellies jello
fruit machine slot machine
fruit pastilles gum drops
full academics cap and gown
full marks excellent, A-plus
full stop period
fully qualified graduated
fun arcades penny arcades
funk-hole escape hatch: It was an escape hatch used for quick getaways.
Furnished Show Flat Model apartment
furniture van, pantehnicon, removal van moving van, furniture truck

G**Games master, games mistress** physical education instructor

games tunics gym suits
gamey leg game leg
gammon ham
gang-breaker gangbuster
gangways theater aisles: At intermission, the people began to stream into the theater aisles and lobby.
gaspers (*cheap cigarettes*)
Gaudy Day and Gaudy Night (*annual college festival*)

gaufer-stitched smocks ruffled smocks, fluted smocks
gazogene carbonator (*apparatus for making aerated water*)
general stores staples: He went to buy vegetables and some staples.
gent's cycle man's bicycle
gent's hair dresser barber
Gentlemen of the Privy Chamber (*officials in the royal household who are in attendance at court*)
genuine real, on the up and up
get into ceremonial get dressed up
get one's monkey up, have one's monkey up get one's dander up
get shot of someone get rid of someone
get the wrong end of the stick get the dirty end of the stick
Get cracking! Get weaving! Get going!
getting past it nearing retirement: He was nearing retirement anyway.
getting under one's wool getting under one's skin
gets beet red, assumes a prawn-like hue blushes
giglamps, spectacles glasses (*eye glasses*)
giggle a little joke: It was a little joke.
gilet vest
ginger-nut (*small thick gingersnap*)
ginger pop, gingerade gingerale
gingerbread biscuit gingersnap
give one the toe of one's boot give one the boot
give one's ears for something give one's eyes for something (*to want something badly*)
Give it a miss! Skip it!
glass of bubbly (*a drink*)
glove puppet hand puppet
go bonkers, go round the twist go bananas, go round the bend
go brown get tan
go off at half cock go off half-cocked
go over with a swing go over with a bang
go poopsie go haywire: Why did everything she touched go haywire?
gob-stoppers candy (*«gob» is slang for «mouth»*)
goer go-getter
God Save the Queen Good Night Sweetheart (*usually played at the end of a dance or ball*)
going full belt, going at it hammer and tongs going full steam ahead
going up the spout going under (*a failing as a failing business*)
going up (*going to a university*)
golf trolley golf cart
gone missing missing: She's missing again!

Good-oh! Great!
goods station freight station
goods trains, goods-waggons freight trains
gooseberry, a a fifth wheel
got up to kill dressed to kill
grass mowings grass clippings
grass, sparrow grass asparagus
grateful for small mercy grateful for small favors
greatcoat overcoat
green fingers green thumbs
green room dressing room (*traditional name for actor's dressing rooms, no matter what color, because originally dressing rooms had green walls*)
gridiron, teakettle railroad
griff scoop (*information*) Give me the scoop.
grill broiler
Grit your teeth and soldier on. Grin and bear it!
grumble, a a gripe
guernsey (*close-fitting knitted sweater worn by sailors*)
gumboots rubbers
gymkhana athletic event (*meeting or show with horse contests*)

Ha-ha (*sunken ditch edging a park or garden*)

hacking jacket riding jacket
hackney carriages taxis (*London's famous black taxis*)
hag-ridden scared to death
hair grips bobby pins
hair slide hair clip
half-hunter (*watch whose face is protected by a metal case*)
half-seas over soused
half-term mid-term
half-timbered (*buildings having walls with wooden frames and brick or plaster fillings*)
half-wellingtons (*short, close-fitting rubber boots that are worn under trousers*)
Half a mo! Half a tick! Just a sec!
hand's turn, a a bit of work: He's never done a bit of work in his life.
hard boys toughs
hard cheese tough deal (*a difficult situation*) I think it's tough deal for Tony.
hard sweet hard candy, jawbreaker
Hard graft! Tough going! Too bad!
haricots dried beans

Hark at him! Look at him!
hate their entrails hate their guts
have a bee in one's trousers have a bee in one's bonnet
have a long purse have lots of money, loaded
have one on put one on
have one's heart in one's boots have one's heart in one's mouth (*when frightened*)
have the black ox tread on one's foot going through a bad period
have the key of the street homeless
Have a chair. Have a seat.
haversack backpack
having a mother and father of a row having a grandfather of a fight
haymaker (*country dance; (US) a powerful punch with a fist*)
He's a daisy! He's a dilly!
head hugger kerchief
headlamp headlight
headmaster/headmistress school principal
health lamp heat lamp
hedge buying hedging (*in a stock market*)
hedge marriage secret marriage
heeled (*having a gun: (US) «wealthy»*)
hessian sacking, crocus sacks burlap bags
Hi old thing! Hi funny face! (*terms of endearment*)
high board diving board
high-fed pampered
high-low (*high shoe fastened in front*)
high table (*the Don's table in a college dining-hall*)
high-tasted (*having a strong piquant taste*)
high tea (*a meal with meats etc. as opposed to «plain tea»*)
hire charge rental
hive honey honey
hoax calls false alarms
hobjobber, casual odd jobs man
hoky-poky, hokey-pokey (*a kind of ice cream sold on the streets*)
holdall shopping bag
Hold on. Hang on. (*telephone expression*)
Hold your jaw! Keep your trap shut!
hole in one's coat stain on one's reputation
home and dry homefree
home-and-home (*games played alternately on different home grounds*)
home-keeping housekeeping
homefelt heartfelt
homely (*pertaining to the home, familiar; (US) plain or ugly*)

hooted tooted: The car tooted.

hoover vacuum cleaner (*generic in the UK for all vacuum cleaners*)

horse-box (*railroad car for horses, a shipboard stall or a high-sided church pew*)

horse races (*The five chief British annual horse-races are: (1) The Two Thousand Guineas, (2) The One Thousand, (3) The Derby, (4) The Oaks and (5) The St. Leger.*)

horse riding horseback riding

hosepipe garden hose

hotchpotch hodgepodge

hot-and-hot (*food cooked and served up at once in hot dishes*)

hot dog sausage sandwich frankfurter, hot dog

hot-gospeller revivalist preacher

hotel attendant bell-boy

house tax, house duty real estate tax

household franchise, household suffrage universal suffrage

household pins straight pins

Household Troops (*Guards Regiments whose particular duty is to attend the sovereign and defend the metropolis*)

housewife sewing kit (*pocket sewing outfit*)

Housey Housey Bingo

How ghastly! How awful!

human oyster close-mouthed individual: He's very close-mouthed.

hundreds-and-thousands sprinkles *tiny candies used as ornamental dressing on cakes and biscuits*)

hunting mass (*abridged mass for impatient hunters*)

hunting-tide (*hunting season*)

hunt the gowk a fool's errand

hush line hot line

I have a crow to pick with you. I have a bone to pick with you.

I must be toddling along. I must be going.

I say! Hey!

I take your point. I get the point.

I'll eat my boots if it isn't so. I'll eat my hat if it isn't so.

I'm extremely sorry. I'm very sorry.

I'm no end obliged. I owe you.

ice pail ice bucket

iced lager cold beer

icing sugar confectioner's sugar

identity bracelet identification bracelet

in a muck sweat in a hurry

in a tick in a minute
in bother, in the cart in trouble
in clobber dressed
in date order in chronological order
in fighting fit, in the pink of health in good shape, in the pink
in future from now on
in pod, preppers, preggio pregnant
in the cart out of business (*business failure*)
in the fullness of time in due time
in the pink, starkers birthday suit
in two shakes of a duck's whisker in two shakes of a duck's tail
in two ticks, in two two's in a sec
in weal and woe through thick and thin
india-rubber boots rubber boots
inkslinger writer
inland revenue duty income tax
Inland Revenue Internal Revenue Service, IRS
innocent as a babe unborn innocent as a newborn babe
Inquiry Agent Detective, P.I. (Private Investigator)
Instrument Out of Order Phone Out of Order (*sign*)
insurance scheme insurance plan
Interval Intermission (*at a theatre*)
invalid chair, Bath chair wheel chair
inverted commas quotation marks
investment firm subscribers investors
invigilator proctor
ironmonger hardware store
It pongs! Now, I remember!
It's fixed! It's a date!
It's the real McKay! It's the real McCoy!
ivy English ivy

Jack towel roller towel
jam doughnut jelly doughnut
jam roll jelly roll
jankers detention (*in school or the army*)
japped leather patent leather
jape joke: They couldn't see what a joke it was.
jar stein (*of beer*)
Jaw Factory on the Thames Foggy Bottom (*slang names for Parliament and Washington, D.C.*)
jelly gelatin

jersey sweater
jiggery-pokery hocus-pocus
Job's news bad news
John apple, apple-John (*variety of apple considered to be in perfection when shrivelled and withered*)
joint and two veg type meat and potatoes type
joint first tied in first place (*sports expression*)
joke drawings cartoons
jolly rum very unusual: It's very unusual, isn't it?
jolly shambles, a mug's business a mess
Jolly decent! Jolly good show! Fine! Great! Wonderful!
got bit: There's no evidence for or against his story. Not one solitary bit!
jumble sale rummage sale
jumpers and trousers sweaters and slacks
jumper pullover
Juvenile Hall Reform School

K**ack-handed, cack-handed** clumsy
keen as mustard sharp as a tack
keenest rates lowest rates (*on bank loans*)
keep a term regular attendance (*at a school or university*)
keep one's eyes skinned keep one's eyes peeled
kentish cobs hazel nuts, filberts
kerb drill tire drill
kerfuffle nonsense: You took a lot of nonsense from Jim.
key fob key holder
kickup (*a dance*)
kick up a fuss, a dust, a row make a fuss
kiosk booth
kip chow down
kippling napping, eating
kipskin calfskin
kiss the rod (*submit to punishment*)
kissing comfit breath mint
kissing-crust (*while baking, the part of the top crust of a loaf of bread which overhangs and touches another*)
kitchen paper paper towels
kit oneself outfit oneself
kite plane (*aeroplane*)
kiting kite flying
knackered exhausted
knackers castanets, clappers

knickerbockers knickers
knob of butter lump of butter
knock up to score having a number of runs (*in a game*)
knock up (to *rouse someone by knocking on a door*; (US) *to get with child*)
knocked sideways knocked for a loop: She had a smile that knocked him for a loop.
knocked up knocked out (*exhausted*)

Labour Exchange Unemployment Office

Ladies' Gallery (*a gallery in the House of Commons*)

ladies' cycle girl's bicycle

ladies' purse notecase ladies' wallet

lamine formica

lamp standard lamppost

larder pantry

last Monday week a week ago last Monday

last trump Doomsday

Last Unction Extreme Unction (*the last rites of the Catholic Church*)

lavatory paper, loo paper toilet tissue, toilet paper

lay on tea serve tea

layabouts lazybones, lazy louts

laying table setting the table: How about setting the table for me?

laughing academy booby hatch

leadfoil wrapping aluminum foil

leading coach first car (*of a train*)

leathers chamois

leaving shop pawnshop

leaving students, scholl leavers seniors, graduates

Left-Luggage Office, Lost Property Office Lost & Found, Baggage Office

legged it hotfoot hotfooted it: He hotfooted it for Brussels.

lemon squash lemon soda

letter box, post box mail box

Let's return to our muttons. Let's get back to the subject, (*from an old French farce in which the witnesses kept straying away from the subject-sheep-until the judge in exasperation exclaimed, «Ravenons a nos moutons.»*)

Licensed Family Hotel (*hotel with a liquor license*)

Licensee: (*pub owner*)

lickspittle, pushful peeler bootlicker, apple polisher

life peer (*peer whose title is not hereditary but only his for his own lifetime*)

liftman elevator operator

lifts elevators

light fittings light fixtures
like a clock like clockwork
like a kick in the head like a kick in the teeth
like a sack of coals like a ton of bricks
Like boggery! Like fun!
like dust rotten (*contemptible*)
like houses on fire like a house on fire
like living in a shop window like living in a goldfish bowl
linen basket bread basket (*referring to the belly area of the body*)
linen hamper, linen bin clothes hamper
ling codfish, heather
lino linoleum
live box (*box for live fish*)
liver sausage liverwurst
Local, The (*the local pub*)
lodger renter
loft attic
lolly cash, moola (*a percentage of the take*)
London pea-souper London fog
long figure high price
long home the grave
long purples purple loosestrife (*purple wildflowers*)
looking like a thousand pounds, looking like 30 shillings in the pound looking like a million
Lord's table communion rail
Lord's (*famous London cricket ground*)
Lords and Ladies of the Bedchamber (*officers of the royal household who wait in turn upon a king or queen*)
lorry truck
lot of madam load of bull...: That's a load of bull...!
Love Monger Lonely Hearts Club
lucifer match
luck-penny (*a penny returned for good luck by a seller*)
luggage trolleys luggage carts
Luggage Room Check Room (*at a railroad station*)
lumber room storage room, junk room

Mac, mack, mackintosh raincoat

maffick, mafficking (*celebrating exultingly as the British did in London after the relief of the town of Mafeking South Africa on May 17, 1900*)
Many happy returns! Happy birthday! (*Usually said to adults: «Happy birthday.» is for children: it's not normally said to an adult, except as a joke.*)

make a stand take a stand (*to stop and offer resistance*)
making a hole in the water drowning
making ducks and drakes of things making a mess of everything
mardy dopey
marks points (*used for scoring in sports*)
mark with a white stone born with a silver spoon in the mouth (*marked as particularly fortunate*)
mascot charm (*for a bracelet*)
mash spuds (*potatoes*)
matey kissy kissy (*very friendly*)
Matron Head Nurse
mean pinch penny, stingy
Meat brain! Meathead! (*name calling*)
Medical Council Medical Society
megrim migraine
Men & Women's Open Toilets Men & Women's Rest Rooms (*sign*)
mews (*stables converted into flats*)
milk float milk delivery truck
milk run (*milkman's morning round: (US) pilot's routine flight*)
minced meat ground meat
Mind the time! Keep track of the time!
Mind your eye! Take care! Look out!
minikinis bikini panties
Miss Prunes and Prisms Miss Prim
money pusher bank clerk
money-scrivener (*one who does financial business for clients*)
monkey-bag (*small money bag hung around the neck*)
monkey nut peanut
Moses basket portable baby bed
muck sweat awful rush: He was in an awful rush to get there.
mucking about fooling around: He's always fooling around in his little yawl.
mugg up bone up, cram: You don't have to bone up on that stuff.
mug-house, ale house bar
mulligrubs colic, sulkiness: She has the colic.
mutton dummies white sneakers
mutton-ham (*salted leg of mutton*)

N.H.I., National Health Insurance Medicare

naffling raving

nail varnish nail polish

nappies diapers

nark at eat away at (*bother with persistent criticism*)

narked peeved

National Savings Certificates U.S Bonds

nattering chattering: What are you two chattering about in there?

Naughts and Crosses Tick-Tack-Toe

neck or nothing go for broke (*risking everything*)

necklet necklace

Neopolitan ice (*a combination of two different ices*)

never-never, the the installment plan

nervy (*nervous or excited; (US) bold or impudent*)

new milk fresh milk

Newmarket (*a racing town or a close-fitting coat*)

night class night school

nil nothing, zero, zilch: We lost 100 to nothing.

nips like one o'clock zips off in a flash

noises-off sound effects: There were plenty of routine sound effects in this film.

Not and earthy! Not for nuts! Not half! No way! Fat Chance! Not on your life!

Not at all! Forget it! Don't mention it!

note-case wallet

notice board bulletin board

NSOB, Not Sporting Old Bean (*popular expression*)

Oat cake oat cracker

off-the-peg clothes off-the-rack clothes

offscum refuse, garbage

Oh I say! Is that right! How touching!

Oh, Queen Anne's dead! That's old news!

oil around come around: He thought Brown would eventually come around to his apartment.

old banger clunker

Old Blighty Uncle Sam (*affectionate names for Britain and the U.S.*)

Old Fruit, Old mate Old Pal

on strap on the cuff

on the cheap economically

on the trot on the go

on tick on credit, on the cuff

one-off, a (*a happening that one determines not to repeat*)

one's tea is running out one's luck is running out

Open Day Parent's Night (*at a school*)

Opening Time (*the time a pub officially opens*)

Operating Theatre Operating Room
ordinary letter post regular mail
osiers willows
oven gloves oven mitts
overalls smocks
overdated out of date
overshooting overreaching
Oxford bags (*very wide trousers*)

P.O.D., Pay On Delivery C.O.D., Cash On Delivery

packed up, snuffed it, took the ferry, called it a day, went over the rainbow, the big dark, dead as mutton, pegged out, went west
kicked the bucket, bought the farm (*death*)

packet, parcel package

packet bundle: It'll cost you a bundle.

palette knife spatula

panti-tights pantyhose

Pantos, Pantomimes (*plays that are usually given at Christmas*)

paraffin kerosene (*US*) *paraffin is «wax»*)

parcelling up groceries bagging groceries

parishes (*slang for salesmen's territories*)

Parliament rises Congress adjourns

pass-out marks final grades

Passing Out Ceremony Graduation Ceremony

paste pie crust dough

Pastry-Cook's Shop Bakery

patty tart

pattern husband ideal husband

pavement, footwalk sidewalk

pay as you earn pay as you go

pay packet pay envelope

pay you out trick pay you back trick

pea-souper pea-soup fog

peckish starved

pedal bin step-on garbage can

pegs coat hooks, clothespins

pelmet valance (*for a window*)

pelting rain pouring rain

pence penny

pen driver pen pusher

Pension Scheme Pension Plan

peppercorn rent nominal rent

peppermint creams peppermint patties
Permanent Building Society Savings and Loan Company
personal call person-to-person call
personal experienced tuition, private tuition tutoring
physical jerks physical exercises
pick tooth toothpick
pickles (*pickled vegetables: (US) pickled cucumbers*)
pig's trotters pig's feet
pigs and whistles wrack and ruin
pike, to to speed
pillar box mail box
pinafore dress, pinny jumper
pinger oven timer
pips pits (*seeds in fruit*)
pitch field: I like an early morning game on the field at home.
Pity! Too bad!
pit orchestra (*section of a theater*)
plain as a pikestaff plain as the nose on your face
plate powder silver polish
playpark playground
play without stakes play for matches (*in a card game*)
plimsolls sneakers
plummy desirable
Point-to-Point Dance Hunt Ball (*for fox hunters*)
pointerwork woodburning (*work done by burning a design into wood with a heated metalpoint*)
polystyrene styrofoam
Pond Master (*man in charge of a swimming pool*)
ponging to high heaven smelling to high heaven
Pontefract cakes liquorice (*round liquorice candy originally made in Pontefract, Yorkshire*)
Poor beggar! Poor old sod! Poor wight! Poor blighter! Wretched fellow! Poor thing! Poor stiff! Poor devil! Poor slob!
porridge oatmeal
porridge stick wooden spoon
porter bock beer
post mail
pot hat bowler
pot head (*stupid person: (US) one who takes «pot,» that is, marijuana*)
potato spirit (*alcohol made from potatoes*)
potholing spelunking
pots of money stacks of money
potty dotty, crazy: She was dotty about him.

power points electric outlets
powdered coffee instant coffee
power coffee power failure
power socket electric socket
prang collision
prefect student monitor
prep homework
press studs snaps (*on clothing*)
price held price set, frozen
pricey, presy expensive
principal boy the lead (*in a play*)
Private Inquiry Agent Private Investigator, PI
private sitting bedroom roomette (*on a train*)
Privy Purse (*allowance for a sovereign's private expenses*)
Privy Seal (*seal used by or for the sovereign in subordinate matters*)
prize off pry off (*to remove a top from a container*)
prizeman scholarship winner (*winner of an academic prize*)
Prom (*abbreviation for Promenade, a concert during which the audience can move about; (US) a school or college dance*)
proprietary chapel (*a chapel that is private property*)
provision shop grocery store
pud pudding
pudding sleeve (*large, loose sleeve gathered at the wrist*)
pudding time dinner time
puff-puff choo-choo (*child's word for railroad train*)
pull a bit of a flanker to dope a horse
pull birds get chicks (*attract girls*)
Pull up your socks! Be sensible!
punters bookmakers
punting boating
push chair baby stroller
pushed for ready desperate for cash
put a term to it end it: He was having such a good time, it seemed a pity to end it.
put the mug on someone rub someone out (*to kill someone*)
put paid close the file on: We'll live to close the file on that mob of scoundrels.
Put up or climb down! Put up or shut up!
Put someone through. Put someone on. (*on a telephone*)
putting on side showing off
pyros firebugs

Quarter-wit half-wit

queen apple quince

Queer Street, being on being in dutch (*fictitious abode of persons in debt or having other difficulties*)

Queer Street booby hatch, insane asylum

queer bad money

queer (*odd looking, wierd (US)*) a person who favors his/her own sex)

quick-change performer quick-change artist

quid, nicker, quidlet (*English pound*)

Quite absurd! Quite unsuitable! Terrible! Not right!

quizzing glass monocle

Race glasses binoculars

railway carriage, railway coach railroad car

railway engineers locomotive engineers

Railway Booking Hall Railroad Ticket Office

Railway Warrant Railroad Pass

railway railroad

rang called, phoned: Tell him I called.

ranker army private (*in a platoon*)

raree show side show

rare hard worker steady worker

rasher bacon slice

rat catcher (*unconventional fox hunting outfit*)

rate payers tax payers

Rating Authorities Tax Department (*of a community*)

Rattling good! Ripping! Smashing! Super duper! Great! Terrific!

raving gorgeous: I met a gorgeous Swedish chick.

read studied: I studied biochemistry at Harvard.

ready for off ready to go

ready reckoner adding machine

Reception Saloon Salon

recharge refill

Recorded Delivery Registered Mail

red rag tongue

red streak (*apple with streaked skin*)

Reduced to Clear Clearance Special

redundancy allowance severance pay

Redundant Shop Surplus Store

Refreshment Room Snack Bar (*at a railroad station*)

refuse van garbage truck

remarkably civil very nice: That's very nice of him.
resident homely woman housekeeper/homemaker
resident lady companion companion
retirement superannuation
return ticket round-trip ticket
returned elected
revenueurs excisemen
revising reviewing: We've been reviewing that at school.
Ribena (*popular British black currant syrup which when diluted makes a refreshing drink*)
ribstall gym bars (*wall bars used as exercise equipment*)
rick haystack
riding waistcoats riding jackets
rifle microphone shotgun microphone
Righto! Right-oh! Okay!
ring dial (*portable sundial*)
ring off hang up (*on a phone*)
road lamp street lamp
roadside pull-up diner
rock bun, rock cake raisin bun
roll-necked sweater, polo-necked sweater, pullover turtleneck sweater
rolling loaded: I've got an uncle who's loaded.
room-ridden roombound
rotovator rotary cultivator
rough and ready justice lynching
rough perfect almost perfect
rough-stuff (*coarse paint laid on after priming: (US) a fist fight*)
round fish (*any fish other than flat fish*)
round-headed puritanical
roundabouts merry-go-rounds
rout-cake (*a rich sweet cake for receptions, a «rout» being a large party*)
rowededow, rowdydow terrible din, hubbub
rowing boat rowboat
Royal Horse Guards, Blues (*the British Household's Cavalry Brigade*)
rubbish tip garbage dump
ruched-up frilled
rumbled caught on to, recognized
rumbo rum-punch
rum go a hard pull (*a difficult time*)
running up a score running into debt

Salad cream mayonnaise
Sale of Work Bazaar
saloon car (*car with an enclosed body*)
salt horse, salt junk salt beef (*sailor slang*)
sandwich tin cake pan
sanitary towel sanitary pad
Sanitation Department Department of Sanitation
sarky in a hurry, at a fast clip
scared blue, scared rigid scared to death
scatter-gun shotgun
scattered like billy be damned went like a shot
scent perfume
scheme plan
schmozzle, a a mess
school leavers, leaving students seniors, graduates
school speech-hall assembly hall
School Certificate, School Cert, School Leaving Certificates Diploma
scones biscuits
score off get the better of
scratch meal pot-luck
Scrutineer Poll Watcher
scud of wind gust of wind
screamer exclamation point
seasoning tub dough box (*trough in which dough is set to rise*)
see over look over: I'm hoping to look over the new house.
Self-Contained Set Private Suite
sellotape scotch tape, cellophane tape
send down expel (*from a school*)
senior to older than
Service Flat (*furnished apartment with linens, towels and a cleaning service*)
set one's face against something set one's mind against something
set up one's bristles raise one's hackles
shake down (*improvised bed; (US) forcing someone to pay you money*)
shark mannered rapacious
sharp as a needle sharp as a tack
sharp enough in a flash: If we'd lost, he'd have been over in a flash.
sharpset starved
sharp on-the-button
shaving tackle shaving gear
shift move off: They'll move off soon enough when they see us coming.
shilling (*10 pence*)
shingle pebble beach

shirty snippy, uppity: Stop being snippy with me.
shoot the moon take a powder, disappear: We must have good care that they don't take a powder.
shooter marksman
shooter rod, gun
shooting coat hunting jacket
shooting range rifle range
shop soiled shopworn
shop, to to sell down the river, to squeal on
shopwalker floorwalker
shopman storekeeper
shopping by post mail order shopping
Shopping Parade Shopping Center
shop store
short sighted near sighted
shot free scot free
shovel board shuffle board
sidebox (*box at the side of the theater*)
Sidesman (*deputy churchwarden*)
signature tune theme song
silk hat top hat
silver paper tissue paper
silverside top round steak
since the year dot since the year one
single bed twin bed
single cream light cream, half and half
single ticket one-way ticket
singlet undershirt, T-shirt
six of the best a caning, a hiding
skeletons in the cupboard skeletons in the closet
sketching block sketch pad
skipping rope jump rope
skirting board baseboard
slanging match (*a loud argument*)
slap-up dinner a special dinner (*with all the trimmings*)
slap-up stuff, catchpenny, brummagem junk
sleeping draught sleeping pill
sleeping suit pajamas
slide knot slip knot
sliding box drawer
slimming, banting dieting
slipover sleeveless sweater
slop-ins scuffs

slush counterfeit, bogus money
small fiddle, a little bit of larceny
smalls, small clothes shorts, underwear
smarm smear, daub, plaster
Smartie-boots! Smartie-pants!
smock-frock smock
snide good stuff: You can't tell good stuff from bad.
snooker (*a variation of pool*)
snorkers sausages
soda scone soda cracker
solid as they come good as they come
somerset somersault
sort straighten out: I'll straighten her out soon enough
sound as a bell sound as a dollar
soup squares bouillon cubes
sour lump of dough a difficult situation
soused herring marinated herring
souse pickled pig's feet or ears
speckless spanking clean
spinneys (*small clumps of trees*)
spit-box spittoon
spivery black market operations
splash headings big headlines
spreading on the butter buttering someone up
spring onions scallions
spot of trouble a bit of trouble
sprat weather (*the dark days of November and December*)
square and aboveboard honest and aboveboard
squash (*fruit-flavored drink*)
Stalls Bar Refreshment Booth (*in a theater*)
stalls seats (*in a theater*)
stand for Parliament run for Congress
stand shot, stand treat to treat (*especially drinks*)
stand surety vouch: Will you vouch for him?
standard contract regular contract
stark raving crackers stark raving mad
starsheen starlight
starstone star sapphire
start fresh start over
starter appetizer
Stash it! Shush! Can it! Enough! Be quiet!
Station Master Station Manager
sticking plaster adhesive tape, band-aid

stickjaw (*sticky pudding or sticky candy*)
sticky wicket, a a difficult situation (*cricket expression*)
stir your stumps shake a leg: You'd better shake a leg and find her.
stirrup cup (*at a fox hunt, a cup of port or sherry taken on horseback, on arriving or departing*)
stock-jobber stockbroker
stocking ladders runs
stone cold cert a done thing
stony stone broke
storage jars canning jars, bell jars
store storage: The old-fashioned family pieces were taken from storage.
Stout fellow! Good guy!
stove-plant hot house plant
straightaway right away
straight play (*a play without music*)
strait waistcoat strait jacket
straw boater straw hat
streaky (*a type of bacon*)
street orderly scavenger
street furniture (*lamposts, parking meters, etc.*)
streety streetwise
strongbox safety deposit box
Subpost Office post office branch
sugar basin sugar bowl
sultanas raisins
Summer Vac, Vac, The Hols, The Long, The Long Holiday summer vacation
summerset somersault
sums addition
supermarket trolley shopping cart
Supporting Programme Co-feature (*at a movie*)
Surgery Doctor's Office, Dentist's Office
surgical spirit alcohol
swan-shot buckshot
swedes rutabagas
sweep hand minute hand (*on a clock*)
sweet bay laurel
sweet oil olive oil, rape oil
sweet shop candy store
sweetie, sweety (*candy; (US) a loved person*)
sweeting (*a sweet apple*)
swing doors swinging doors
Swiss roll jelly roll

swoop surprise audit
swollen headed big headed
swot, a an eager beaver, a grind (of a school)
swotting it up, swotting cramming

Table water bottled water

Take a butcher's. Take a look.: Have you seen the evening papers'? No?
Then take a look at this.

Takeaway Take out (*signs on fast food stores*)

take eggs for money, to to make empty promises

taking it in good part being a good sport: I'm glad you're being a good sport.

takings net: There's a slight improvement in the net this month.

talk against time filibuster (*at Parliament*)

talk like a pen-gun talk like a machine gun

talk through the back of one's neck talk through one's hat

talkabout, a a talk show

tangas string bikinis

Tara! Tata! Ta! So long! See you!

Target Golf Range Driving Range

tattie bogle, bird scarer scarecrow

tatty ratty: She wore her ratty old raincoat again.

taxes rates

taxpayers ratepayers

tea-trolley tea-cart

teapot set tea set

tear off a strip give a severe scolding

teats nipples (*for baby bottles*)

teddy boys hoodlums

tedious codswallop stuff and nonsense: We're not standing for their stuff and nonsense.

telephone talkers obscene phone callers

telly TV

tenner (*ten pound note*)

termless endless

terraces row houses

Thank you very much indeed!, Thanks awfully! Thank you very much!, Thanks a lot!

That's a turn-up! That makes my day!

The best of British luck! Good luck to you!

The boot is on the other leg. The shoe is on the other foot.

The Exchange The Telephone Company

the Gold marigold
The Honorables, Hons (*daughters and sons of peers*)
The Household (*the royal domestic establishment*)
the May hawthorne tree
The line is engaged. The phone is busy.
The Offy liquor store (*shortfor «off license» meaning, their offerings must be consumed «off» their premises*)
The Smoke (*slang name for London*)
three-monthly quarterly
three times three (*three cheers repeated three times*)
thriller cliff-hanger
throw dust in one's eyes pull the wool over one's eyes
thundering good, awfully decent awfully good, very handsome: That's awfully good of you to do that for me!
tick and toy dilly-dally
tick off check off (*items on a list*)
tick one off tell one off
ticking over nicely moving along nicely
tidy bin waste basket
Time Bill Time Table
time for the joint dinnertime
tinned drinks cans of beer or soda
tinned meats canned meats
tin can
tin opener can opener
tipped cigarette filtered cigarette
to blot one's copybook to mess things up
to take a scunner on to dislike on sight
toe the bar toe the line
toffee, toffy taffy
togged up dressed up
toileted dressed
too much on one's plate overloaded, over one's head: I'm overloaded with things to do.
tooth glass toothbrush holder
top C high C
top-liner headliner
torch, electric torch flashlight
torpedo frankfurter roll, hot dog roll
touchlines sidelines: Cheering from the sidelines isn't much use.
towelling wrap terry robe
trade price cost price, at cost
trained nurse registered nurse

tram, tram-car trolley, street car
treacle molasses
tread upon eggs, to to walk on eggs (*being careful to not offend*)
trekkers hikers
trendy smart
trevira polyester
trilby, trilby hat fedora (*soft felt hat*)
trolley-man conductor
trolley gurney (*in a hospital*)
trump, a a doll (*indication of approval of what one has done*): You're a doll!
trunk call toll call (*long distance telephone call*)
try it on the dog audience theater preview audience
try on, the the fitting (*of a dress or suit*)
tub frock washable dress
Tube, Underground, The Rattler Subway
tuck food (*eatables*)
Tuck in! Eat up!
tuck box (*food mailed by parents to school children*)
tuck shop (*pastry shop near a school*)
tumbled, twiggled caught on
tuna steak, tunny tuna fish
turnups cuffs
twinset twin sweater set
two-fisted (*clumsy; (US) virile or vigorous*)

U**lster and topper** raincoat and rainhat
underneaths underwear
undress shoes bedroom slippers, scuffs
Unknown Warrior Unknown Soldier
Union Jack Stars and Stripes (*flags*)
unwanted booking cancelled reservation
up a gum tree up the creek
up the spout down the drain
up to dick, up to the knocker up to snuff, up to par, up to declared value
up to one's eyes up to one's ears
up to time on time: Did he always turn up on time?
Up-Lines, Up Express (*trains going to city centers*)
upping-stone, upping-stock, upping-block, horse block (*block for getting up on a horse*)
urgency emergency: He's been called on an emergency.

Vacant tenancy vacant house, vacant apartment

valve radio tube

vegetable marrow zucchini, squash

visitor's stubs (*used at railroad stations*)

viva voce examinations oral exams

Wages car armored car

waist slip half slip

walk clerk (*one who goes around collecting proceeds of banks*)

walking out going steady

walking frame walker (*for an invalid*)

wallowing about in treacle being lovey-dovey

Warden Sexton (*of a church*)

wardrobe clothes closet

warning hooter alarm

was badly dipped lost a bundle

wash ball bar of soap

washhand basin bathroom basin, bathroom sink

washing bags laundry bags

washing line clothesline

washing-up dishwashing

wasn't worth a day's purchase wasn't worth a dime

waste ground empty lot

water butt rain barrel

weak-minded simple minded

wear the breeches wear the pants

Welfare The Dole

Well met! Good to see you!

Wellingtons, wellies rubber boots

wet canteen (*place on a military post where liquors are sold*)

wheeze, jape joke

white-bonnet shill (*at a fair*)

whip round pass the hat (*for contributions*)

who's-your-father what's-his-name: In this episode, he shoots what's-his-name.

wholemeal whole wheat

wide minded broad minded

wideawake hat (*low, wide-brimmed canvas or soft felt hat*)

wild carrot Queen Anne's lace

wild goose hunting wild goose chase

windcheaters windbreakers

window gazing window shopping
winkled sneaked: I sneaked myself in.
winkle pickers (*shoes with excessively pointed toes*)
will go to the wall will be history: The choir will be history if we don't help.
wipes, paper hankies kleenex, facial tissue
wit cracker wit
wizard super: We had a super lunch at the Lobster Pot.
won't wash won't work
wood-honey wild honey
wood-wool excelsior
woolies sweaters
work like a drayhorse work like a horse
work number business number
work to rule working according to the books
working like stink working like mad
Worthiest of Blood (*in a question of royal succession, a male as opposed to a female*)
wrap-around overall wrap-around apron
wrapover dress wraparound dress
wrapping papers gift wrap
wrong side of the stone walls wrong side of the tracks

Yellow boy gold coin
yellow hammer finch
yellow weed goldenrod
yobbo (*tough hooligan*)
You've got it in one! You catch on fast!

Zed zee (*the letter «Z»*)
zip fastener zipper, slide fastener
Zooks! Gadzooks! Goodness gracious!

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