

Агафонов Е.А.

*Научный руководитель: преподаватель Н.В. Жиленко
Муромский институт (филиал) федерального государственного образовательного
учреждения высшего образования «Владимирский государственный университет
имени Александра Григорьевича и Николая Григорьевича Столетовых»
602264, г. Муром, Владимирская обл., ул. Орловская, 23
E-mail: snowdevil33ru@gmail.com*

Differences and similarities in British English and American English

English is currently the most well-known language on the planet. Although Great Britain is the country where the language originated, due to cultural influence the American variant of the language is the most popular and well known in the world, as of this day.

When talking about differences in English language's vocabulary is the most obvious difference. Numerous words in the English language are exclusive to one of the variants. Despite this British and American people can understand each other by guessing the meaning of a word from the context of a sentence presiding it. Here are some examples:

British people say biscuit, while Americans call it cookie.

Americans say apartment building, while British people say block of flats.

Americans say engine; British people say motor.

As for grammatical differences in British English, collective nouns can take both singular or plural form. In American English, collective nouns are only singular.

There are also grammar differences between American and British English that developed because of cultural differences that is the case of auxiliary verbs. In British English *shall can be used* to express the future. For example, "I shall be there by tomorrow." In American English shall considered to be too formal for a casual conversation. Americans are more likely to use "I will be there by tomorrow."

The past tense and past participle of the verbs learn, spoil, spell, burn, dream, smell, spill, leap, and others, can be formed with t or with the regular ed. In British English irregular and regular forms are current, but for some words there is a strong tendency towards the irregular forms. For other words the regular forms are somewhat more common. In most varieties of American English, the t forms are never or rarely used.

Most of spelling differences in British and American English can be accounted to American **lexicographer** Noah Webster [1]. His first dictionary, A Compendious Dictionary of the English Language, appeared in 1806. He was frustrated by the **inconsistencies** in English spelling. Webster wanted to spell words the way they sounded for example center rather than centre, honor rather than honour, program rather than programme. Spelling reform was also a way for America to show its independence from England. Before his death in 1843 he was able to release a second edition of his dictionary. After his death the rights to publish further revisions were bought by brothers George and Charles Merriam. The latest edition was released in 2003. [2]

British and American English have far more similarities than differences. British TV shows are shown in the US, and Hollywood movies are shown in Britain without the need to correct the language that's because the difference between American and British English is not too drastic **and as a result people can easily understand both variants of language although it can lead to minor confusion for people unfamiliar with regional dialects.**

Литература

1. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Noah_Webster
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Webster%27s_Dictionary
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comparison_of_American_and_British_English