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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.**

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Limerick as a genre of English poetry.

Limericks are popular over the years. They are very important for English people. Certainly, limericks are very old. People don't know why a limerick is called a limerick. Limerick is a component of English humor and culture. The most famous town in Ireland was called Limerick. Also, people told that Irish soldiers sang the popular song "Will you come to Limerick?" There are different ideas of the origin of limericks. Limericks come from the Irish words "Laoimeidbreach" or "A merry lay". Also, they are funny songs. Limericks were made by Edward Lear. He was a famous author who wrote the "Book of Nonsense" in the 1800s.

Some years ago, journalists did not write such short melodies because Limericks were indecent. The reasons are:

- authors usually wrote about a bawdy thing.
- limericks were simple and short poems. They had only five lines.
- finally, the history of limerick had been criticized.

In fact, people can't write a good limerick. It is not an easy thing. But limerick has special rules: they consist of five lines;

lines 1, 2, and 5 of Limericks have seven to ten syllables and rhyme with one another.

lines 3 and 4 have five to seven syllables and also rhyme with each other.

Limericks start with the line "There once was a..." or "There was a..."

Translating limericks is a very interesting occupation. Limericks have been translated into many languages. S.Y. Marshak had the best translations. But other than that, writers have the secret of translation. The secrecy consists of the keeping rhyme. Sometimes, authors have to change «the geography» of limerick or the names of its characters, because they want to keep the poetic form of a limerick.

It is important to note that the third and fourth lines have only two feet of three syllables. The word "foot" of a limerick's is called the anapaest, (ta-ta-TUM). Also, limericks can be considered amphibrach (ta-TUM-ta). A novelist usually writes about people and places in the first line. In the second line he writes about the action of hero.

Limericks were used in Nursery Rhymes and other poems for children. It is easy to compose a bawdy limerick.

In conclusion, we can say that people can get accustomed to the English poetic folklore, develop skills in translation and write limericks. Limericks can be sometimes indecent, but they make people laugh. Limericks are the form of poetry. People feel happy when they try to write jokes. Limericks have survived in the course of time.

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English Labels: Past and Present

English is a global language. It has penetrated into all spheres of society. We can hear English at home, in the streets, on television and radio, in newspapers and magazines. Most manufacturers of clothes, shoes, cosmetic products, electronic equipment use English in the instructions and labels.

Today T-shirts with labels in English are especially popular among young people and teenagers. This trend, which has taken possession of Europe and the US, has become more and more popular in Russia. And now the T-shirt with a flashy label is not only a part of the collection of the fashion designer. It is also an essential attribute of the youth wardrobe. The meaning of the words does not matter – being a fashion person is what really matters.

Originally, Ancient Greece became the ancestor of the inscriptions on the clothes. There was popular embroidery and patches on clothes with the names of the owners. Later, by the end of the XV century, Italian and German portraits demonstrated the inscriptions in the pattern of men's shirts and corsages of women's dresses. Usually, the motto of a noble family was written in Latin. In the twentieth century, political ideas moved from paper to clothes as slogans on T-shirts. The history of such inscriptions is quite interesting. First inscriptions adorned only uniforms, indicating the status of people wearing them. Then they began to show the designer's name or the brand of the thing. Later, in the 1980s, inscriptions on clothes began to carry the meaning. [1]

Fashion trends are constantly changing. You can wear a beautiful dress or a suit, wonderful shoes and take an expensive handbag and you will look stylish. But who doesn't want to show off? A T-shirt with a speaking label will be suitable to this situation best. Not everyone can understand the message, especially in a foreign language, but you won't be unnoticed.

Why are T-shirts with English inscriptions so popular among teenagers? The answer is quite simple: youth means freedom. A businessman is unlikely to wear such clothes. Fashion is fashion. But if you want to be a big-ideas person at work, suit up. Scientists say that wearing formal business attire can increase abstract thinking – an important aspect of creativity and long-term strategizing. The experiments suggest the effect is related to feelings of power.

The label on the clothes has a certain communicative orientation. Mostly, it depends on the purpose of the communication. There are many types of labels with different meanings. They may also contain slang words, either well-known or prevalent only in a certain circle of people or in a particular territory.

The inscriptions can include:

- contracted forms (Sorry, I'm late)
- grammar and lexical mistakes of different kinds (“i werkz hard for da monee”, “can to fly”)
- questions and exclamations (Hi, and your name is?)
- words broken into parts that have no sense (“Princ iple ofsuc cess”)

All the inscriptions can be divided into several semantic groups:

- brands (Adidas, Nike, Dior, D&G, Versace, Celine)
- musical bands (Metallica, Beatles, Queen, Pink Floyd, Ramones)
- jokes and funny phrases (“Princesses don't do dishes”, “I was born to be blond”, “People like people but I am the queen”, “I love you more than pizza”, “No boyfriend no problems”)
- negative expressions (“Don't copy me!”, “Minimum of the contact with surrounding”, “You can't sit with us”, “Don't care”, “All monsters are human”, “I have no future”, “I don't believe in human”)
- social problems (“No parking”, “Stop pollution”, “Save the Earth!”, “Don't worry! Be happy!”, “Don't be mad”, “Stay real”)

- characteristic of a person (“Forever Young”, “Girl princess”, “I am at the age of”, “Born to be Free”, “Poison free”, “Nothing is possible”, “Best friends”, “Student”, “Super star”)
- quotes from songs and movies (“Diamonds are best Girls’ Friends”, “All you need is rock-n-roll”)
- names of sports teams (“NBA”, “Real Madrid”, “NY Yankess”, “Manchester united»)
- names of cities and countries (“America”, “NY, I love NY”, “Keep calm and love London”)
- subject from movies and books (“Batman”, “Superman”, “Barbie”, “Avada kedavra”, “Its LeviOsa not LeviosA”)

To sum it up, T-shirts with the inscription in English will help you express yourself, if you really know the meaning of the label. A T-shirt with the reasonable inscription can be interpreted as a powerful expression of individuality. In any case, it is necessary to remember and understand what is written on our clothes!

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The Usage of English and American Idioms

All over the world free using idioms in speech is a difficult problem for everyone who learns English language. People, who know English very well often have serious difficulties with idioms. And if they intentionally are not using idioms, in this case their speech, most likely, will be dull . So we think that this topic is actual. Idioms make our speech more expressive, vivid, and imaginative. People who have a rich vocabulary of idioms, can not only understand shades of meaning, stylistics, emotion, but also enrich their speech, make it more natural. Understanding and right using idioms testifies about high level of possession of English language. Any language has a lot of idioms. Idiomatic always expressions are a vital component of English. They show mentality and culture of the people who speak in this language. If we compare English and Russian language, we will also find out a great number of idioms, like “has remained with a nose”, “to sit in a pool” or “ate a dog” and so on . An idiom is a phrase or expression that has a meaning different from what the words suggest in their usual meaning. Every idiom has some sort of meaning behind it such as “Butterflies in my stomach”. The meaning is a feeling caused by nervousness. The term red herring, an idiom meaning 'false trail', is used of something which is neither red nor a herring. Idioms can be really funny but some are really tricky.

American and English idioms are very different. American phrase as to put one's foot into it, meaning to make a public offence. In British English phrase to drop a brick, won't be clear for the majority of the people, living in USA. Idioms are very widespread in modern English language. We can share idioms into different parts according to their meaning. They're everywhere around us, in our life and in our thoughts

Most idioms are unique and fixed in their grammatical structure. Without idioms English can lose much of its variety and humor in language. The origins of most idioms is obscure. This is the reason why we must study differences between the idioms of American and British English. It is a very difficult situation for us. Besides it makes more interesting. Many idioms of the "worldwide English" have first been seen in the works of writers like Shakespeare, Sir Walter Scott and Lewis Carroll or even in the paperbacks of contemporary novelists. An example of Shakespearian quotation can be found in the following sentence: "As a social worker, you certainly see the seamy side of life." We can find idioms in biblical references, sports terms, technical terms, legal terms, military slang and even nautical expressions. "In his case the exception proves the rule." (A legal maxim - in full: "the exception proves the rule in cases not excepted". Widely used in both America and Britain.) "To have the edge on/over someone." (This is originally American English idiom, now established in almost every other form of English, including Britain.) It is hard to find an American idiom that has not established itself in "worldwide English" (usually Britain). British English idioms are not widespread. We can know that it is hard to say which idioms are actively used in English and which are dying out or have already died. Every day idioms are dying and new-ones are born. Also we can add that all dialects of English have different sets of idioms and situations . American English and British English may not, in this respect, be the best possible pair to compare because they both have been developing into the same direction, at least where written language is concerned, since the Second World War. The reason that there is so much American influence in British English is the result of the following:

- We have well-developed publishing industry in the U.S.
- Mass media influence on a worldwide scale every day
- And finally international political and economic position of the U.S.

Knowing these facts we can say that new idioms usually appear in the U.S. and then become popular in so-called "worldwide English". How then does American English differ from British

English in the use of idioms? There are no radical differences in actual use. The main differences are in the situations where idiomatic expressions are used. There have been many studies recently on this subject. American English adopts and creates new idioms at a much faster rate compared to British English. Also American idioms have tend to spread faster and faster. The reason for all these facts is that Britain is not the world power .When we use the idiom "bread and butter" we mean someone's livelihood or income. For example: I don't especially like doing this job, but it's my bread and butter. Idiomatic expressions are a vital component of English in particular. The common idioms will increase our understanding, though most of us avoid trying to use them. It is hard to say what this will happen to idioms and what kind of new idioms are created. This will be an interesting development. Well, all my aims have been achieved and I hope my work will be a good help for teachers and students in their work with idioms.

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Time Management in Russian and American cultures

This work is devoted to research into the key features of the perception of time in American and Russian cultures. Understanding how time is viewed by other cultures is absolutely vital. Especially it is important for people going to work across cultures and borders and be successful.

Communication and understanding of people largely depends on their attitude to time. It, in its turn, depends on the culture in which a speaker was brought up. As we know, time management is the process of planning and exercising conscious control over the amount of time which people spend on specific activities.

American time management remains the most developed system all other the world. It made the USA take a leading position among the countries of the Western world and Japan. Moreover, keep in mind that the United States was exactly the place of formation of science and practice of time organization. Its leading importance in the world and the impact on other cultures is undeniable today.

First, typically the Americans think that one should be productive, or at least active. What do they keep in mind: «Actions speak louder than words», «Don't let the grass grow under your feet», «Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today», «Business before pleasure», «Don't beat around the bush» and, the most popular, «Time is money». This equating time with money can be also seen in the Americans' choice of words where they spend time, save time or waste time. Time is the scarcest resource.

Of course, it doesn't mean that the Americans don't believe in leisure. But, generally, time is a precious commodity in the USA. Cultural values such as courtesy, tact and advertence take priority there. It is interesting that the Americans in an ideal would want to start and finish their discussions, tie up all the loose ends and have the contract signed and by the end of the first meeting itself. Deadlines are fixed. People from other countries who are not accustomed to making any commitments until a sense of mutual trust has been established, this Americans' habit of going more or less straight to the business can be considered as disdainful or rude. The Americans do not think that acting in any other way is worth the effort.

In this way, one of the most important problems which can suddenly come with talking to people brought up in different countries is the various attitudes to time. Understanding different points of views and positions promotes good cross-cultural communication.

Time management in Russia, like in any other country, reflects its historical characteristics, culture and social psychology. At this time people are forced to work more and more efficiently, and it is not surprising that most of them have problems with using and scheduling their time. But despite this fact, the problem of the effective using of time in most studies, is either ignored or covered very poorly. Native leaders are forced to use the developments of foreign specialists. Currently, managers of different fields, mostly expected to organize the time in the most effective way, can be divided into two groups: old-school leaders, worked under conditions of a planned economy, many of whom find it difficult to adapt to the new conditions. They prefer to work the same way they used to. Another group is new managers, most of whom had studied abroad, had read the foreign literature. They used the experience of Western way of time organization. Usually they do not differ much from their colleagues from other countries. It is natural for them to take care of the maximum efficiency of using their working time.

Russia is a culture where traditionally schedules and deadlines are viewed as flexible. For the Russians, the value of time is «elastic». In Russia there is a trend to be involved in too many things instead of the task with the highest priority. Routine duties do not allow to concentrate on one the most important thing. Planning is not rigorous. This indicates problems with delegation Russian

managers have. As the result issues and problems can be solved under pressure and stress at the last-minute or even a deadline can be missed.

Another feature of time management in Russia is that friendly relations between colleagues are more common in Russian companies. Many people prefer to start their working day with informal communication with colleagues, but not from the most important cases. Discussion of the terms of the contract can also smoothly go into a friendly conversation.

Also, being late is not perceived as being rude because if somebody was engaged in another meeting or activity it would have been rude to bring it to an end just because the clock said so. «People» come before time in Russian culture. Some Russian proverbs say: «Seven people do not wait for one», «All in good time», «Better late than never», «Moscow was built during several centuries».

At the end I want to say, it is ok that people who work in contexts of multicultural communication often express frustration with the way some of foreign associates manage their time at work. Complaints often include an inability to meet deadlines, being late for meetings, a seeming lack of focus on a priority task and so on. But successful cross cultural management depends only on the individual's ability to meet and solve problems. Everyone must be responsive and undoubtedly tolerant toward representatives of other culture.

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Political Correctness in American English

At the present stage of the development of international relations, it is necessary to note the increased interest in the study of cultures of different peoples. Besides, it is becoming more and more important to research the use of politically correct language in intercultural communication.

In American English, it is possible to highlight the following types of political correctness:

- racial political correctness, which is connected with names of different ethnic groups (e.g. African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans are politically correct unlike Negroes, Orientals, and Indians, respectively);
- gender political correctness, which arose under the influence of the feminist movement (e.g. Ms., spokesperson, and camera operator are neutral alternatives to Mrs. or Miss, spokesman or spokeswoman, and cameraman or camerawoman, respectively; wimmin or womyn are used instead of women to avoid the word ending -men);
- social political correctness, which is connected with names of different social groups (e.g. physically challenged people, vertically challenged people, and senior citizens are politically correct unlike invalids, short people, and old age pensioners, respectively) [2].

There are several reasons for the use of politically correct language: the desire to resolve a difficult emotional situation, concealing the truth, giving social status, and the desire to depict a situation as being more acceptable [1].

Political correctness in American English arouses the interest of linguists; at the same time there are opponents who advocate a ban on political correctness. However, the use of politically correct language in intercultural communication contributes to the dialogue of cultures and guarantees comfort and safety for people.

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Holidays in Russia and in America.

American holidays are strikingly different in origin and show surprising similarities in the manner of their celebration. No matter what the holiday's origin is, they all seem to be the same thing. A holiday has simply become, for most Americans, a day off from work, though some retain some individuality.

There are many national holidays in Russia, when people all over the country do not work and have special celebrations. The major holidays are: New Year's Day, Women's Day, May Day, Victory Day, and Independence Day.

New year. New year in America. People stay awake until after midnight on December 31st to "watch the Old Year out and the New Year in." Many parties are given on this night. Theatres, night clubs, restaurants are crowded. When midnight comes, they greet the New Year: people gather in the streets of big cities, they ring bells, blow whistles and automobile horns, some shoot off guns and firecrackers. In the territory of modern America New year began to be celebrated in the 17th century when to these lands there have arrived colonists from Holland. They have entered the traditions and ceremonies. The cult of Indian pagan gods for centuries was forced out from society. Only in the 20th century during carnivals and parades people have begun to use their fancy images in the festive suits.

The first holiday of the year in Russia is New Year's Day. People see the new year in at midnight on the 31st of December. They greet the new year with champagne and listen to the Kremlin chimes beating 12 o'clock. There are lots of New Year traditions in Russia. In every home there is a New Year tree glittering with coloured lights and decorations. Children always wait for Father Frost to come and give them a present. Many people consider New Year's Day to be a family holiday. But the young prefer to have New Year parties of their own. History of modern New year in Russia has begun with Peter I's arrival. It isn't surprising that the European customs have exerted impact on celebration of New year. People celebrated, started fireworks and put decorated on western fir-tree manners. By the way, it is interesting that a Christmas tree was decorated not in toys, and in sweets, nuts, apples.

Christmas. Christmas in America. It is usually a one-day official holiday, but it is preceded and followed by festive parties, and marked by special church services, gift-giving and feasting. Christmas is a family holiday. Everybody tries to come home for Christmas. People send cards or Christmas greetings to family and friends away from home. Every family tries to have a Christmas tree, which is beautifully decorated. Santa Claus comes from the North Pole in his sleigh, dressed in red cap and jacket, entering the house from chimney. He has gifts of whatever kind you may wish for — nothing is too fabulous nor too trivial for him to provide. In a mass order the holiday began to be celebrated only since the end of the 19th century. And till the XVIII century his celebration was in the New World under a ban at all. For the first time in front of the White House the Christmas tree in 1891 has been established, and in 4 years after that the holiday became nationwide and most important in the United States. During some period the celebration of Christmas lasted exactly 12 days - about day of the Epiphany of Jesus. Later this custom has been forgotten.

No wonder that Christmas is one of the most cherished and long-awaited holidays in Russia. It's celebrated on the 7th of January. Initially this day was linked with many folk customs. Some areas still keep up with the tradition of carols' singing and masking on the night of January 6th. Traditional meal for Christmas in Russia is kutya. It's sweet and delicious rice with raisins and dried fruits. From old times till now people are used to treating their relatives and neighbors with this dish. It is natural to sing carols in honor of Jesus Christ on this night. Christmas holiday in Russia takes the sources far back in the past. In Russia Christmas was for the first time celebrated in 988. Throughout many centuries of tradition of celebration of Christmas in Russia remain invariable. For many orthodox believers this holiday is more

important and solemn, than New Year. Christmas traditions and customs of Russia and America have similarities: to festively decorate fir-trees, to give gifts for Christmas, to visit the temple in honor of a holiday, to receive guests. But there are also some distinctions: decorate windows of rural houses with candles, exchange greeting cards only in America.

Memorial Day. Memorial Day in America is a national holiday, which is celebrated annually last Monday of May. Schools, banks and offices close for the day. On that day, Americans honour the servicemen who gave their lives in past wars. Schools, clubs and churches decorate the cemeteries. They put up the flags on the graves of the army, navy and airmen. They hold memorial services in churches, halls, parks and cemeteries. In addition to solemn services Memorial Day is often marked by other, more joyful ceremonies: colourful parades, sports competitions. The holiday has arisen after the Civil war in the USA and has been originally devoted to the soldiers northerners who have died in this war.

9th of May. This holiday can be compared to a holiday 9th of May. The greatest national holiday in our country is Victory Day. On the 9th of May, 1945, the Soviet Army and its allies completely defeated the German fascists and the Second World War and the Great Patriotic War ended. A magnificent memorial on Poklonnaya Gora has been built to commemorate the Victory. Many veterans take part in the military parade and lay wreaths on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Radio and television broadcast popular war songs. A lot of guests from different countries of the world come to Moscow to participate in the celebrations.

Labor Day. The identical name Labor Day has one more holiday, but it is celebrated differently. In America it is a holiday of recreation. It marks the end of summer and the beginning of autumn. Vacation time is over. Resorts, camps and beaches close. Parents go to summer camps and take their children back home. In the United States Labor Day is celebrated in September. History of this holiday dates back to the late 19th century when various labor movements appeared worldwide. For the first time this holiday in the USA was celebrated in 1882. He was devoted to all workers and those who make a contribution to well-being of nation.

The 1st of May is the Day of Labour in Russia. During Soviet time there were huge demonstrations on this day, as everybody was obliged to show his loyalty to the state; now only communists organize meetings on this date. Holiday history in Russia is connected on May 1st with revolutionary events. In our country this holiday has appeared when Engels and Marx's doctrine, and Lenin's works have received great popularity. Being a revolutionary they took part in demonstrations.

Easter. Easter is in memory of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. It falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon between March, 22, and April, 25. The 40 days before Easter are called Lent. Just before Easter, schools and colleges usually close. Students have a week or ten days of spring vacation. Easter is a church holiday, and many churches have an outdoor sunrise service. In Russia this day everyone greets each other with the words «Christ is risen» and answer, «Truly He is Risen». Easter Sunday is a day when people enjoy the blessed food, sing, visit their relatives and friends to exchange Easter eggs.

In America people give each other presents of eggs. There is a popular belief that wearing three new things on Easter will bring good luck throughout the year. Holiday symbols are rabbit, color eggs, flowers, greens and spring pastel tone. The holiday of Easter has no constant calendar date and is celebrated as in Russia, and America at different times. In general, traditions of celebration of Easter in two countries are very similar in spite of the fact that in each country there are the differences connected with some cultural, climatic features of Russia and America

In general holidays is cool! And let everyone will have them in soul even on weekdays.

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Similarities and differences in English and Russian surname origins.

Every day we listen, read, pronounce and write dozens of surnames, but we do not think about their origin. It is interesting, at least, to know the history and meaning of your surname. There are surnames in every language, so we can find similarities and differences in the history of surnames in the most spoken languages, Russian and English.

The surname is the kind of anthroponym, inherited official naming which indicates the person's belonging to a particular family.

The appearance of surnames is associated with the 11th-12th centuries in the English history and the 13th century in the Russian one. At those times, society was divided into estates, so the rich were first who had surnames. And only by the 17-18th centuries each person had a surname in both countries.

There are many ways family names began. First of all, surnames appeared from nicknames: Gavrilov, Colonels. It is worth taking notice that those surnames could change during a person's life according to his/her occupation. They also described physical or other characteristics and served in the past to distinguish one man from another, and then his family from another one. "Strong", "Short" and "Long" are only a few of the many names which first came from nicknames. Those surnames are called descriptive.[3]

We can learn that surnames appeared from geographical locality: and topographic terms Rostovtsev, Moskvichev, Hill, Brook. For example, if John lived near the water, he was called "John at water" or simply "John Atwater". Another John who lived by the brook could be described as "John Brook".

Most of all surnames emerged from the names of professions and handicraft industries: Bochkarev, Kuznetsov, Miller, Taylor. Some names go back to different titles, ranks and posts, whose bearers in medieval England were engaged in direct service of the king: Stuart, Butler. A number of surnames is associated with agricultural trades: Coward, Goddart. These words are characterized by suffix -ard or -art which appeared from the word herd. [1]

As both countries have a religion, many surnames have come from the names of saints and churches: Uspensky, Churchman.

Many names appeared as a result of borrowing from other languages. Tatar word Kiryan gave rise to the Russian surname Kiryanov. Many Russian surnames have a German origin: Brooder, Wagner. The French influence is most evident in such names as Bruce, Davidson in the English language.

Surnames appeared from the names of animals, birds, insects, and reptiles: crow, beetles, wolf. Here is an example. Everyone knows the surname Zuev, but what zuy is? A kulik bird is called so in some areas. So, Zuev and Kulikov have the same meaning. The wolf in many areas is called a biryk, hence we have numerous Biryukovs. Surnames can start from the names of plants: Malinina, Kornev. Naturally, the names and nicknames used only the names of those animals and plants that could be found in the area. For example exotic names could not become the names of ordinary Russian people. Crocodiles, Camels, Ostrich can only be found in humorous stories - Lianov, Kaktusov, Bambukov.

Surnames appeared from the names of color: White, Black, Belov, Krasnov

Some surnames descended from the popular names: Robert, William. Those surnames did not change. Many English otantroponimic surnames contain a formant-son (Thompson, Johnson,), meaning "son of such and such". Many names originated from abbreviated names of parents. In the Middle Ages, the name David was often abbreviated in Dawe, hence we've got such names as Dawe and Dawson. Unchangeable surnames formed from names are rare in the Russian language.[2]

The Russian language has such surnames as Ukraintsev and Khokhlov, Belorus because of the names of peoples who has lived in a another state for a long time.

There are some differences between Russian and English surnames, for instance, several personal names with one surname in English: Herbert George Wells, George Bernard Shaw, William Somerset Maugham. In Russia there is no tradition to give a person 2 (3 or even 4) names, but there is such an unusual anthroponymic system component in English as a surname-patronymic (Edward Bulvert Lytton Dickens). In Russian there is a considerable number of formants, which form the surnames: -ov (a), -ev (a), -in (a), sometimes -sk (-skaja), -sky (-skaja) and allow to identify the surnames in the flow of speech very easily. In addition, in Russian there is an opposition of male and female surnames, which is absolutely not typical for the English language. In England you can address to a wife through her husband's personal name or surname: Mrs John Smith, Mrs William Brown, Mrs Frank Algernon Cowerwood. In Russian, only the surname of the spouse applies to the wife, but not his personal name.

In conclusion, I would say that the origin of the English and Russian surnames is a very interesting and important aspect of learning the history and culture of the country. The surname can tell about the ancestors of a person, about the place where they lived, what they did and much more.

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Communication differences

Problems of cross-cultural communication tend to become crucial for the process of globalization of the world because they create obstacles to successful business and professional communication. Let me compare the differences in verbal and nonverbal communication in Russian and American culture.

Russia has an oral rather than a written tradition. Every Russian seemed to be a born orator. Conversations begin easily between complete strangers and also between men and women. Delivery is expressive, unhurried and without affectation and deception. But Russians may also talk around a difficult problem without addressing it directly. Don't expect short responses to simple questions. Americans, by contrast, rather than give a lengthy explanation that will leave the listener uncomprehending if it was a general question, are more likely to respond with a brief yes or no. Straight talk is appreciated, even when it leads to disagreement. When disagreement does occur, Russians look up to honesty rather than attempts to paper over differences. It is far better to level with them and be certain that they completely understand your position. They respect adversaries who are straightforward and sincere in expressing views that diverge from their own. After they have expressed their righteousness and have unburdened themselves, their opposition may moderate, and the differences may turn out to be less than originally believed. In fact, after talking themselves out, Russians and Americans may even find that have an unanimity of views.

Verbal communication is the most effective form of communication and leads to prompt interchange of ideas and information. That type of communication is strongly supported by nonverbal communication which helps us understand the accurate meaning of the speaker, his emotions, attitudes and values. Russian and American nonverbal communication have many differences. For instance, For Americans, the usual distance in social conversation ranges about four feet. Less space in the American culture may be associated with either greater intimacy or aggressive behavior. When friends meet they shake hands or give a short hug and immediately step aside to have some distance for conversation. No one can invade American's personal space. Russian people, on the contrary, do not require that much personal space. They like to speak sitting or walking quite close to each other. When they converse facing each other, at the beginning of the conversation people usually keep some distance of about four feet, like Americans do. But, as the conversation proceeds, they tend to come closer and closer. However, they will still keep at least two feet distance. It is considered rude and unfriendly to keep large distance during the conversation. Physical contact by Russians-touching another person-is a sign that things are going well. The degree of physical contact will indicate how well things are going. If Russian places a hand on your arm, for example, or embraces you, you can relax a bit; these are good sign. Facial expressions are also clues to behavior. Russians tend to start out with grim faces, but when they do smile, it reflects progress in developing a good relationship. If a stony look continues, it means you are in trouble. For instance, in American culture the smile is typically an expression of pleasure.

Eye contact is important because insufficient or excessive eye contact can create communication barriers. In relationships, it serves to show intimacy, attention, and influence. As with facial expressions, there are no specific rules governing eye behavior in the United States and in Russia, except that is considered rude to stare, especially at strangers.

Perception of time is another issue because of the differences in their time orientations and in the time systems they use. In the United States, time is money. The daily routine is properly organized. Most of the Americans always come on time whether for an appointment or a party. When you need to meet with someone, you have to discuss the time a few days in advance. Time orientation in the US culture is for the future. Americans believe that tomorrow is the most important and that they create

their future themselves. Russians, in contrast are present oriented. Russian proverb says, new time, new songs'. Russian people do not live by their past. Every new time brings something new and this newness is the most important.

These are, of course, minor differences in Russian and American mentality, which catch the eye. Despite all that it seems that we are not so different. And If that is possible, then all cultural barriers can be overcome.

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Tea drinking as the national tradition of Great Britain.

England is famous for its traditions. One of them certainly is considered tea drinking.

The actuality of this topic consists in the investigation of the most famous cultural tradition in England. It is this country but not other ones where people pay the greatest attention to the rules and peculiarities of tea drinking.

The aim of this investigation is studying of tea ceremony.

The task of this investigation to define the items of this tradition, which has become the England's image.

Tea drinking has become a national tradition in 1840 [2]. At that time both aristocracy and clerks had obligatory tea break at 5 o'clock. This ceremony is known as "5 o'clock tea". The tradition is that none of the bosses has the right not to allow his or her employees to have a tea break.

The opening of the first tea shop dates to 1884. After that the shops of the same kind began to open all over the country. They offered more than 20 sorts of tea. One should take into account that neither strong drinks nor tobacco were sold there.

Since then tea drinking has become the culture of special interest [4]. Thus, what peculiarities one can notice in present tea drinking?

In fact, the English have tea 6 times a day. Still, only three of them are more important. They are Afternoon Tea, cream tea, high tea.

Afternoon Tea is traditionally served between four and five in the afternoon. Many people believe that this tradition was first started in 1841 by Anna Maria Stanhope, the seventh Duchess of Bedford. At that time, and in fact right up until the early decades of the 20th century, luncheon was served at twelve noon but dinner was not served until 8:00 or even 9:00 in the evening. The Duchess, so the story goes, complained of a 'sinking' feeling in the middle of the afternoon and asked for some tea and a few slices of bread and butter to be served to her in her private drawing room; the Blue Room at Woburn Abbey.

In addition to the slices of bread and butter, one would offer thin cucumber sandwiches, or salmon sandwiches (with the crusts removed, naturally) as well as cakes, pastries, scones with cream.

Cream tea is similar to the afternoon tea, but without the sandwiches and other cakes.

Cream tea consists of freshly baked fruit scones, some clotted cream, butter and strawberry jam served with a large pot of tea. The idea is you pour your tea of choice, this time just whatever is in the pot and then construct your scone to eat with your tea. Butter the scone, add some jam and then add some clotted cream to taste. It tastes delicious but can be a bit messy.

Some hotels advertise that they serve "high tea" and then go on to describe a rich and sumptuous afternoon tea. Whilst high tea sounds very, very grand, it is in fact, a working class meal. High Tea is actually dinner.

When tea was first introduced into Britain it was an expensive luxury, but over time as prices fell it became a staple in the diet of the poor and tea accompanied every meal.

Prior to the industrial revolution, when most people worked in agriculture, the workers would come home at lunch time and eat their main meal then. After the industrial revolution, the working classes could not come home at lunch time and so the main meal of the day took place in the late afternoon, or early evening the same time as the afternoon tea of the rich. This meal became known as teatime. It was a High Tea if it contained hot and filling foods and just Tea if it comprised mainly of breads and cold cuts. A High Tea consisted of whatever was available bacon, eggs, meats, stew there were no hard and fast social rules for this meal except that it would always be accompanied by copious

amounts of tea. In the evening at 7 or 8 o'clock when the family gathers at huge round table by the fireplace they have so-called "high-tea". It means not the quality of tea but the quality of food.

Moreover, a special sort of tea and tea drinking traditions correspond to each time of drinking tea. It depends on different characteristics. Strong tea is worth drinking in the morning. For afternoon one should take a milder one. A weakening tea is better for the evening time. By the way, they prefer tea with milk or cream [3].

One should note that the English have one of the longest life age, because of tea drinking English tradition [1].

In conclusion, it's worth mentioning one of the English jokes "England may be without it's Queen but not without the tea".

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To carry coals to Newcastle or Every country has its customs

Nowadays travelling is one of the most popular way of relaxing and gaining some knowledge. It is out of the question that our actions and thoughts depend on our culture. We live in a multi-cultural world and often face another way of behavior and doing things.

The aim of this report is to draw your attention to the fact that when going abroad, you should follow the way of life and habits of those who live there.

Millions of people all over the world spend their holidays travelling. If we are travelling abroad we enrich your mind, gaining more knowledge and impressions. It is necessary to say in this connection that we should respect and follow the natives.

Every country and every nation has its own traditions and customs. Our knowledge of the local people's customary ways helps us feel more comfortable in unfamiliar situations. So, adopting the way of the life where we move to is a basic skill.

The aim of the report is to give current information on some customs, habits and traditions in foreign countries.

Another point is to pay the readers' attention to the language of body gestures. They have different meanings and depend on the country in which they are expressed.

We cannot ignore the fact that how different life in a place we visit. Meeting new people, exploring new places and cultures make us a global citizen.

As the dictionary says, culture is a system which is necessary to create and keep preserve information about traditions, morals, habits and customs of a particular country. Surveys show that a lot of people enjoy travelling for pleasure. It means they are eager to admire beautiful and picturesque lands or to see famous places of interest [1].

There are a lot of differences between people's behavior in various parts of the world.

For example:

1. In Afghanistan, you should spend at least five minutes saying hello
2. In France, you shouldn't sit down in a café until you've shaken hands with everyone you know.
3. In Spain, women should be careful about making eye contact with strangers, as it might signal interest of a romantic nature.
4. In Japan you should avoid eye contact. [2].

A lot of scientists consider that a gesture is a form of non-verbal communication which is used in combination with verbal communication or instead of it. In different countries gestures have various meanings. Its language allows a person to express a variety of feelings and thoughts. For instance, in the USA and Europe it is very common for people to point with an extended finger but in Asia this gesture is considered very rude.

To sum up, there is a famous proverb: « To carry coals to Newcastle or Every country has its customs». So according to it, when we visiting another place, we should follow the customs of the people in that place, we should know manners and traditions of countries where we want to go [3].

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Fashion in Britain

In every person's life fashion plays a very important role. Many people say that «meet on clothes...» Everybody gets under influence of fashion which dictates to society what, where and when to dress.

I would like to analyze fashion of the UK in detail. British have never been legislators of fashion. Throughout centuries, they actively adopted trends from Spain, France, and Italy and introduced them in Britain. The first fashion innovation was the extra-long to elbow gloves, which Elizabeth wore on her coronation. In fact, she was the first trendsetter of British fashion, giving her modesty and refinement.

Since 19th century, British had developed their own view on clothes. British clothes became convenient and practical. Elegance came out on top. The ability to dress with advantage became the main defining feature. The English brands of clothes still follow these qualities. Having refused from volume and severe forms in the 19th century, British have presented the style of refinement and modesty to the whole world.

"Modestly doesn't mean poorly" – since the middle of the 19th century it has been an axiom of fashion in England. Pomp came to an end with the Victorian era, the British designers developed the individual style. [1]

Special attention was paid to design. The emphasis on details has defined a role which is played by the English fashion in the world fashion industry. British create not so many the memorable dresses, but they pay much attention to details.

Scarf is one of elements which the British fashion pay attention to. The English style is impossible without headdress. Scarves are tied not only around a neck, but also used as kerchiefs. In a favor at British and a hat. Designers have developed thousands of hat models with wide and narrow fields, so-called tablets, samples with a veil and feathers.

Even the fashion for a white wedding dress has appeared exactly here thanks to the Queen Victoria who has put it on a wedding ceremony. It was simple and without persuasive details, that's why all girls liked it.

British designers followed classical style. The classics and Britain were not separable in all times and classics has always occupied a place of honour in the world fashion.

Today the most popular fashionable houses of England are known and recognized around the world, and most of the English brands by default are attributed to the list of "most-most", Now, I would like to tell about some of them.

The most remarkable lines of "Burberry" are traditional square patterns, boots, trench coats and coats. The small company Burberry Group Plc was opened in 1856 by the English fashion designer Thomas Berberri. [2]

"Alexander McQueen" is a famous British fashionable house which specializes in release of clothes, footwear and accessories of a luxury segment of the market. The fashion designer is called "the hooligan of the English fashion" [3]

"Next" is a brand which releases clothes in classical English style that suits everyone. These clothes suits for any occasion – either in the office or at the party. [4]

In conclusion, I would like to say that the British taught the world to pay attention to details. The details of the dress, but not the dress itself is important for an Englishman. Such things as scarves, shawls, gloves and even handkerchiefs have the defining value in forming the English style.

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Phonetic Features of American English Dialects

We live in a century of information technologies which are present in all areas of a person's activity. Thanks to modern video chat services, it has become easier to practice audition and oral speech, which makes it more important to research phonetic peculiarities of different languages and dialects.

Phonetic features of the African American dialect are as follows:

- [r] is dropped when not followed by a vowel;
- [ð] can be pronounced as [d];
- [ŋ] in -ing is pronounced as [n] [1].

Phonetic features of the Boston dialect are as follows:

- [r] does not appear after the nucleus;
- [θ] and [ð] are pronounced as [t̪] and [d̪], respectively;
- [u:] may be diphthongized [3].

Phonetic features of the Pacific Northwest dialect are as follows:

- this dialect is rhotic;
- [ɛ] can be pronounced as [ɪ];
- [æ] is pronounced as [e] before [ŋ] [2].

Knowing phonetic features of American English dialects can facilitate the process of cross-cultural interaction with inhabitants of different parts of the United States of America.

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Pseudo-International words in English, German and Russian

There are some words which are similar in spelling and / or pronunciation, often with a common origin, but have different meanings in different languages. They are called pseudo-international words (false friends of a translator). It is important to analyse them in order to avoid misunderstanding in intercultural communication and translation.

The following words are false friends of an English-speaking translator from German or Russian and a German-speaking or Russian-speaking translator from English:

- German Gymnasium and Russian гимназия (both mean ‘a grammar school’ / ‘a high school’) and English gymnasium (it means ‘a room or building equipped for gymnastics, games, and other physical exercise’);
- German Chef and Russian шеф (both mean ‘a boss’, ‘a head’) and English chef (it means ‘a professional cook, typically the chief cook in a restaurant or hotel’) [1, 2, 3, 4, 5].

The following words are false friends of a German-speaking translator from English or Russian and an English-speaking or Russian-speaking translator from German:

- English angel and Russian ангел (both mean ‘a spiritual being believed to act as an attendant, agent, or messenger of God, conventionally represented in human form with wings and a long robe’) and German Angel (it means ‘a hinge’, ‘a fishing rod’);
- English critic and Russian критик (both mean ‘a person who expresses an unfavourable opinion of something’, ‘a person who judges the merits of literary or artistic works, especially one who does so professionally’) and German Kritik (it means ‘criticism’) [1, 2, 3, 4, 5].

The following words are false friends of a Russian-speaking translator from English or German and an English-speaking or German-speaking translator from Russian:

- English family and German Familie (both can mean ‘a group consisting of two parents and their children living together as a unit’) and Russian фамилия (it can mean ‘a family name’);
- English magazine and German Magazin (both can mean ‘a periodical publication containing articles and illustrations, often on a particular subject or aimed at a particular readership’) and Russian магазин (it can mean ‘a shop’) [1, 2, 3, 4, 5].

Further research into other pseudo-international words can contribute to intercultural communication and translation.

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The Concept of House/Home in the English-Speaking, German-Speaking and Russian-Speaking Linguacultures

In the modern world, learning foreign languages is an integral part of many people's lives. But studying foreign languages, it is important not only to know how to use grammatical structures, to pronounce correctly and to possess a large stock of words, but also to know the culture and traditions of the country of the studied language.

A subject of comparative analysis of the English-speaking, German-speaking and Russian-speaking linguacultures will be the concept of house/home, because it is one of the main aspects of every person's life. In Russian, the word дом has a wide meaning. This is a residential building, institution and family. In English and German, there are two lexemes denoting that. They are home and das Heim (warmth, comfort and family hearth) and house and das Haus (a building, a dwelling).

1. The essence of house/home:

- There is no place like home.[2] East or West, home is best.[2]
- Osten und Westen, zu Haus ist's am besten.[2]
- В гостях хорошо, а дома лучше.[2]

We see that house/home is the best place on earth in all the linguacultures.

2. Man and house/home:

a) the role of house/home:

- He that would be well needs not go from his own house.[4]Far from home is near the harm.[4]
- Eignes Dach gibt Mut.[2]
- Дома и стены помогают.[2]

In the German-speaking and Russian-speaking linguacultures, house/home acts as an assistant to people; in the English-speaking linguaculture, it plays a huge role, as going beyond the home environment is equivalent to leaving the psychological comfort zone.

b) the role of man:

- The master absent and the house dead.[4] A house is not known for how it looks but for the things it cooks. [1]
- Ein Haus ist nicht schön durch seine Wände, wohl aber durch gastliche Hände.[3]
- Без хозяина дом сирота.[4] Не красна изба углами, а красна пирогами.[3]

Man plays a huge role in all the linguacultures: a house without a master is not a house.

To sum up, it is possible to say that the revealed similarities and differences in the perception of the concept of house/home in the English-speaking, German-speaking and Russian-speaking linguacultures can help to carry out effective communication in the intercultural context.

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