

# Lost in Translation?

*British English vs American English — Same Language, Total Chaos*

## VOCABULARY REFERENCE

Study these words before completing the exercises. Warning: things are about to get confusing.

### BRITISH

### AMERICAN

#### Biscuit

a small, sweet baked treat

#### Cookie

same thing, different word!

#### Chips

what you eat with fish

#### Fries

thin-cut fried potatoes

#### Crisps

come in a bag, very crunchy

#### Chips

yes, confusing on purpose

#### Boot

back of the car

#### Trunk

where the spare tyre lives

#### Bonnet

front of the car

#### Hood

covers the engine

#### Trousers

what you wear on your legs

#### Pants

Brits use pants for underwear!

#### Queue

an orderly line of people

#### Line

Americans just say 'get in line'

#### Gobsmacked

utterly astonished

#### Mind-blown

modern US equivalent

#### Cheeky

playfully rude or bold

#### Sassy / Bold

no direct translation

#### Knackered

completely exhausted

#### Beat / Wiped out

no single US word exists

#### Gutted

deeply disappointed

#### Bummed out

gutted sounds so much worse

#### Dodgy

suspicious or unreliable

#### Sketchy

same vibe, different word

### Did you know?

In Britain, if someone says "I'll knock you up in the morning", they mean they'll knock on your door to wake you.

In America... that means something very, very different. Always context-check before you speak!

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## EXERCISES

### Exercise 1 | Same or Different?

Read each pair. Write S (same meaning) or D (different meaning) on the line.

British: Chips / American: Chips \_\_\_\_\_

British: Biscuit / American: Cookie \_\_\_\_\_

British: Trousers / American: Pants \_\_\_\_\_

British: Boot (of a car) / American: Trunk \_\_\_\_\_

### Exercise 2 | Fill in the British Word

Replace the American word in brackets with the correct British equivalent from the vocabulary list.

1. I left my shopping in the [trunk] of the car. \_\_\_\_\_

2. She was absolutely [mind-blown] by the news. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Can I have some [chips] with my burger, please? \_\_\_\_\_

4. That mechanic looks really [sketchy] to me. \_\_\_\_\_

### Exercise 3 | Who Said It?

Did a British or American person say it? Circle your answer.

"I am absolutely knackered after that meeting."

BRITISH /

AMERICAN

"My pants got soaked in the rain — so embarrassing!"

BRITISH /

AMERICAN

"Can you pass the cookies? I love a good snack."

BRITISH /

AMERICAN

"The queue for that restaurant was ridiculous!"

BRITISH /

AMERICAN

### Exercise 4 | Your Turn!

Pick any 2 words from the vocabulary list. Write one funny sentence for each — in British OR American English!

Word 1: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Word 2: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_