



Navigating the British and American accents

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Abstract: *The English language is universal language, and it holds different beautiful accents. All accents carry a distinct history and cultural identity. Among the most recognizable and often discussed are the American and British accents. These two accents have been always compared to each other. This article will explore the differences between these two accents and provide some related examples for both British and American accents.*

Key words: *accent, language, sounds and words.*

Аннотация: *Английский язык — язык универсальный, и он обладает множеством прекрасных акцентов. Каждый акцент несет в себе уникальную историю и культурную идентичность. Среди наиболее узнаваемых и часто обсуждаемых — американский и британский акценты. Этим двух акцентов всегда сравнивали друг с другом. В этой статье мы рассмотрим различия между этими двумя акцентами и приведем некоторые соответствующие примеры для британского и американского акцентов.*

Ключевые слова: *акцент, язык, звуки и слова.*

Introduction: The distinct sounds of American and British English began to diverge long ago. As English speakers settled in America, their language evolved in isolation, shaped by the influences of the New World. Back in Britain, English continued to change on its own path, influenced by its unique history and regional dialects. The American and British English have variations in pronunciation, including vowel and consonant sounds, as well as word stress and intonation. These two accents have distinct vocabulary, mostly in noun and verb usage like phrasal



verbs and the names of objects. Spelling differences are most noticeable in prefixes and suffixes. Here are some examples:

1. The main differences between American and British accents are pronunciation. Variation in vowel sounds: The "a" sound in words such as "bath" and "castle" differs significantly. Americans tend to pronounce it with a short "a" sound (as in "cat"), while British speakers often use a longer "a" sound (as in "father"). Additionally, variation in the "O" in "cot" vs. "caught": The "o" sound in words like "cot" and "hot" can differ. Americans often use a short "o" sound, when British English tend to use a longer, more rounded "o" sound, similar to the "o" in "caught."

2. British English speakers often drop the "r" sound at the end of words, especially in the south of England. For example, "car" might sound like "cah." Additionally, American English generally retains the "r" sound. Here are some examples:**In British accents** these following words are pronounced like:

- Car: "cah"
- Star: "stah"
- Farmer: "fahmer"
- Flower: "flowah"
- Poor: "poah"
- Four: "foah"
- Door: "doah"
- Her: "huh"

While in American accents these words are pronounced:

- Car: "car" (pronounced with a distinct "r" sound)



- Star: "star"
- Farmer: "farmer"
- Flower: "flower"
- Poor: "poor"
- Four: "four"
- Door: "door"
- Her: "her"

3. There is a difference in the usage of words in both British and American accents. For example, "Fall"- (American accent) “Autumn” – (British accent), "pavement" – (American accent) and “Sidewalk” – (British accent).

Conclusion:

All in all, as it has been mentioned above, English is spoken all over the world, and each region has its own unique accent. Among the most famous and often compared are the American and British accents, each reflecting its own history and culture. Both of them are unique and beautiful even though they both have some variations.

Reference:

1. Beare, K. (2019, July 03). Differences between American and British English. Retrieved from <https://www.thoughtco.com/differences-between-american-and-british-english-1212216>.