



English around the world

Would you like to learn more about countries where the people speak English?
Here is some extra information for you.

“Howzit! I come from South Africa, a country on the southern coast of Africa. We have lots of mountains and a long, beautiful coastline. Lots of exotic animals live here, for example lions and giraffes.

There are eleven official languages in South Africa. English is one of them. Less than 10 per cent of the people speak it as their first language, but it's now the main language of the government.

In South African English, some things are different from British English: We often say 'ja' for 'yes', or we call the trainers on our feet 'trakkies' and say 'lekker' when we mean that something is nice. When we want to have a party, which we call 'jol', we say 'Let's jam soon!' and a barbecue is called a 'braai'.”



“Namasté! I'm from India, a country in South Asia where over 1.2 billion people live. It's famous for its food, its old culture and Bollywood movies. The name Bollywood is a mix of the Indian city Bombay and Hollywood in the USA, where you can find all of the big American film studios. Most people in India are Hindus and believe in many different gods, for example Vishnu, Shiva, Devi and Ganesh.

We have lots of different languages in India, but the one that most people speak is Hindi. Both Hindi and English are our official languages. People use them in business and government.

When Indians speak English, some of them sound very much like British people; others speak with a dialect. Sometimes we also use Hindi words in English sentences or mix English and Hindi words. People call this new language Hinglish (Hindu and English) and it's well-known in India. "I have hazaar things to do", for example, means "I have thousands of things to do." Or when you want to know the time, you can ask "Time kya hua hai?"”



coast [kəʊst] Küste ○ coastline ['kəʊstlaɪn] Küstenlinie ○ exotic [ɪɡ'zɒtɪk] exotisch ○ lion [laɪən] Löwe ○ giraffe [dʒɪ'rɑ:f] Giraffe ○ government [ˈɡʌvnmənt] Regierung ○ trainers ['treɪnəz] Turnschuhe ○ barbecue ['bɑ:bɪkjʊ:] Grillparty ○ Asia ['eɪʒə] Asien ○ billion ['bɪljən] Milliarde ○ mix [mɪks] Mischung ○ god [ɡɒd] Gott ○ business ['bɪznɪs] Geschäft; Handel ○ dialect [ˈdɪəlɛkt] Dialekt ○ well-known [wel'nəʊn] bekannt



“Hi guys! I come from the USA, one of the biggest countries in the world. It’s the home of great music, movie stars and hamburgers!

The biggest city is New York, but the capital is Washington, D.C.

When we speak English, it sounds different from the English that people in Britain speak. We spell lots of words differently too, and we sometimes use other words (like ‘elevator’ instead of ‘lift’).”

Different spelling:

American English	British English
color	colour
favorite	favourite
theater	theatre
center	centre
dialog	dialogue
jewelry	jewellery
mom	mum

Across cultures



Words with **-our** in British English usually have **-or** in American English.

Words which end in **-re** in British English often end in **-er** in American English.

Different words:

American English	British English
apartment	flat
chips	crisps
closet	cupboard
costume party	fancy dress party
elevator	lift
eraser	rubber
flashlight	torch
French fries	chips
football	American football
soccer	football
store	shop
subway	underground
vacation	holiday



chips (American English), crisps (British English)



French fries (American English), chips (British English)

elevator (AE) [ˈelɪvətə] / lift (BE) [lɪft] [Aufzug](#)