

Different Meanings in British and American English- Jigsaw

Instructions for teachers

Copy one set of cards per group of two to four students. Decide which cards you want to use, for example by cutting off the cards which are too easy from the top and cutting off the cards which are too difficult from the bottom.

Cut up the cards like a jigsaw, with a mix of different sizes and maybe shapes, with at least two cards in each piece of the jigsaw, and maybe with the whole middle column not cut up at all. Don't leave any individual cards on their own. Students should match the word cards to the two meanings cards, using words above and below and the shapes of the cards to help when they aren't sure about the meanings and about which one is British and which one is American. Note that the words used in the explanations sometimes come from the opposite kind of English, so they should just think about the meaning of the word in the middle column, not the origin of the words used to describe it. Many of the words (like "gas") also have shared meanings that are not included due to lack of space, but which you could tell them if they get stuck. You could also:

- Tell them a few matches
- Tell them one column and get them to match the others
- Let them look at an un-cut-up copy of the worksheet without touching the cards, then try again after hiding the answer sheet

After they check their answers with the answer sheet, they can test each other on the same words by:

- Reading out two meanings for their partner to guess the word for
- Read out a list of words and meanings from one side of the table until their partner is sure if it is British and American (maybe with points off if they are wrong)
- Reading out a word and one meaning for their partner to say the other meaning of
- Reading out a word for their partner to say both meanings for

Cards to cut up/ Suggested answers

<u>British meaning of the word</u>	<u>word</u>	<u>American meaning of the word</u>
just above ground level	first floor	at ground level
pedestrian underpass	subway	underground railway
natural gas	gas	gasoline/ petrol
wallet for coins/ women	purse	handbag
vacation	holiday	public holiday
underpants	pants	trousers/ slacks
French fries, as in fish and...	chips	crisps, as in nacho...
place with a bathtub/ shower	bathroom	toilet
starter	entrée	main course
soccer	football	American football
a kind of private school	public school	a government-funded school
top level academic	professor	university teaching staff
crazy	mad	angry
stove/ range	cooker	cook/ chef
the opposite of generous	mean	the opposite of kind
cookie, as in "chocolate..."	biscuit	a kind of savoury scone
field hockey	hockey	ice hockey
wheat, as in "fields of..."	corn	sweetcorn, as in "tuna and"
one pence	penny	a cent
track and field (sprint, etc)	athletics	sport
sprinter, etc	athlete	sportsman (generally)



cook under heat/ broil	grill	barbecue on a hot plate
long distance highway bus	coach	economy class
allowing free choice	liberal	left wing/ progressive
finish an undergrad course	graduate	successfully finish education
technician	engineer	train driver
undershirt	vest	waistcoat
petrol station	garage	multi-storey car park
sweater/ pullover	jumper	knitted dress
alcoholic apple drink	cider	apple juice
dessert (generally)	pudding	crème caramel
eraser	rubber	condom
railway coach	carriage	baby carriage/ pram
pushchair/ stroller	buggy	baby carriage/ pram
zipper	zip	postcode/ nothing
nylons/ pantyhose	tights	leggings/ unitard
doctor's office/ clinic	surgery	operating theatre
revenue/ gross sales	turnover	staff turnover
do the dishes	wash up	wash your hands
passage for cars	underpass	pedestrians way
drunk	pissed	annoyed
Jello (a kind of dessert)	jelly	a kind of jam
baby's bed/ crib	cot	camp bed
top of a convertible car	hood	bonnet

to hold up stockings	suspenders	braces, to hold up trousers
cart/ wagon	trolley	streetcar/ tram
round brackets	brackets	square brackets
telephone box/ booth	callbox	roadside emergency phone
campground	campsite	pitch for a tent
freight car on a train	wagon	shopping cart/ trolley
sleeveless sweater	tank top	sleeveless T-shirt
bring into discussion	table a topic	lay aside/ delay
picnic basket	hamper	laundry/ linen basket
day care/ nursery	crèche	Xmas nativity scene
criticise	tick off	annoy
duplex (as in "... detached")	semi	articulated lorry ("... trailer")
a position in rugby	hooker	slang for prostitute
sidewalk (for walking on)	pavement	asphalt/ road surface
panto, a kind of Xmas play	pantomime	miming
detective constable	DC	District of Columbia