How British is your English? - A test of where your English comes from

What do you call …? (Please write the word you most often use in English. Don’t worry about the spelling)

1. A train system that travels under the street
2. The fuel that you put in your car
3. Small sweet things that children often buy, keep in the pockets and eat
4. The covering of your car’s engine that you must open to check the water and oil
5. The place where you need to go after drinking a lot of water
6. A portable light that you can use to find your way in the dark
7. A thing that a woman carries her possessions around in, often made from leather
8. The time when your tyres lose all their air
9. A time when you don’t have to work, e.g. Xmas ________________
10. Clothes that men and women wear on the bottom half of their body, e.g. jeans
11. Small, hard, sweet snacks that are usually circular and are often eaten with a cup of tea or coffee
12. A person who delivers your letters.
13. A thing that a man puts his money in.
14. The place where the train times are written.

If you are not sure which words to use, please look at Part Two.
How British is your English? - A test of where your English comes from

Grammar Practice

1. A train system _______ travels under the street

2. The fuel _______ you put in your car

3. Sweet things ______ children often buy and eat

4. The covering of your car’s engine ______ you must open to check the water and oil

5. The place ______ you need to go after drinking a lot of water

6. A portable light ______ you can use to find your way in the dark

7. A thing ______ a woman carries all her things around in, often made from leather

8. The time ______ your tyres lose all their air

9. A time ______ you don’t have to work.

10. Clothes _______ men and women wear on the bottom half of their body, e.g. jeans

11. Small, hard, sweet snacks ______ are usually circular and are often eaten with a cup of tea or coffee

12. A person _______ delivers your letters.

13. The thing ____________ a man puts his money in

14. The place ______ the train times are written

If you are not sure which words to use, please look at Part Two.
How British is your English? - A test of where your English comes from
- Part Two (with clues)

What do you call …? (Please circle the word you most often use in English. Don’t worry about any differences between the words)

1. A train system that travels under the street
   a) The underground
   b) The subway
   c) The tube

2. The fuel you put in your car
   a) Petrol
   b) Gasoline
   c) Gas

3. Small sweet things that children often buy, keep in the pockets and eat
   a) Candy
   b) Sweets

4. The covering of your car’s engine that you must open to check the water and oil
   a) The bonnet
   b) The hood

5. The place where you need to go after drinking a lot of water
   a) The toilet
   b) The loo
   c) The bathroom
   d) The john
   e) The restroom

6. A portable light that you can use to find your way in the dark
   a) A flashlight
   b) A torch

7. A thing that a woman carries her possessions around in, often made from leather
   a) A purse
   b) A handbag

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8. The time when your tyres lose all their air
   a) A flat
   b) A puncture

9. A time when you don’t have to work, e.g. at Xmas
   a) A holiday
   b) A vacation

10. Clothes that men and women wear on the bottom half of their body, e.g. jeans
    a) Pants
    b) Trousers
    c) Slacks

11. Small, hard, sweet snacks, that are usually circular and are eaten with a cup of tea or coffee
    a) Cookies
    b) Biscuits

12. A person who delivers your letters.
    a) A mailman
    b) A postman

13. The thing that a man puts his money in
    a) A wallet
    b) A billfold

14. The place where all the train times are written
    a) The timetable
    b) The schedule
To find out how English (that is, not American) your English is, score one “British English point” for each of the following answers:

1. a) or c)
2. a)
3. b)
4. a)
5. a) or b)
6. b)
7. b)
8. b)
9. a)
10. b)
11. b)
12. b)
13. a)
14. a)

Score 1 “American English point” for each of the other answers you circled.

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<td>British English</td>
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How British is your English? - A test of where your English comes from
- Part Three (Speaking task)

Student A

Now explain the words below to your partner (see example 1 below) and circle which word they usually use. If they can’t guess the word from your explanation, read them the two options below and ask them which one they prefer (not which one they think is British English).

1. **curtains**/ drapes (“What do you call things that hang inside your window and you close every night?)
2. **the accelerator**/ the gas pedal (“What do you call the thing in your car that…?”
3. an elevator/ **a lift**
4. a **jumper**/ a sweater/ a pullover
5. a store/ **a shop**
6. a **frying pan**/ a fry pan
7. a zipper/ **a zip**
8. a (winter/ woollen) **scarf**/ a muffler
9. soda/ **a fizzy drink**/ pop
10. a **lorry**/ a truck
11. a cellular phone/ a cell phone/ a cell/ **a mobile/ a mobile phone**
12. a highway/ **a motorway**/ an expressway
13. a **flat**/ an apartment/ a condo
14. the town centre/ the city centre/ downtown
15. a **jam sandwich**/ a jelly sandwich
16. a roundabout/ **a traffic circle**
17. the sidewalk/ **the pavement**
18. a car park/ **a parking lot**
19. an intersection/ **a crossroads**
20. a **postcode**/ a zip code

Give one “British English point” for each word they used that is written in **bold** above (e.g. **curtains**), and one “American English point” for each word they used that is not written in **bold** (e.g. the gas pedal).

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How British is your English? - A test of where your English comes from
- Part Three (Speaking task)

Student B

Now explain the words below to your partner (see example 1 below.) and circle which word they usually use. If they can’t guess the word from your explanation, read them the two options below and ask them which one they prefer (not which one they think is British English).

1. a film/ a movie (“What do you call a thing that you watch at the cinema?”)
2. jelly/ Jell-O (“What do you call a food that…?”)
3. a station wagon/ an estate (car)
4. fall/ autumn
5. a chemist’s/ a drugstore/ a pharmacy
6. corn/ sweet corn
7. pudding/ crème caramel
8. a police car/ a patrol car
9. a (sticky) plaster/ a band aid
10. the till/ a (cash) register
11. garbage/ trash/ rubbish
12. a line/ a queue
13. a spanner/ a wrench
14. the boot/ the trunk
15. the gear shift/ the gear lever
16. a jug/ a pitcher
17. fries/ French fries/ chips
18. the gear box/ the transmission
19. a packet of chips/ a packet of crisps

Give one “British English point” for each word they used that is written in bold above (e.g. a film), and one “American English point” for each word they used that is not written in bold (e.g. Jell-O).

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What your score means:

100% British English- You are as British as a bowler hat and a pin-stripe suit. In other words, you are more British than most young British people!

90% British English- You might think you can pass as British, but not quite! Your English is something like Gwyneth Paltrow or Renee Zwelleger playing a British character.

About 70% British- Are you Australian? If not, you must be a Kiwi.

50/50- You are very confused

About 70% American- Do you also like maple syrup? You must be Canadian

90% American- You are as American as apple pie (they also have apple pie in England, they just don’t make such a big thing about it)

100% American- You are as American as a Texan cowboy