

How British is your Technical English?

Listen to your teacher define engineering vocabulary and write one word or expression for each thing you hear. If you aren't sure, just guess or leave a blank. All the definitions have more than one answer, but only write one. If you think of more than one, only write the thing that you would usually say when speaking English. Write numbers as words.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

Listen to your teacher say the definitions again but this time with options. Make sure you wrote one of those options, and if not choose the one that you would be most likely to use when speaking English. You still shouldn't write more than one thing, so cross old answers off if you change your answers.

Compare the words you wrote with a partner and guess who wrote more British words and who wrote more American ones. Then check which are British and see if you are right.

Your teacher will give you eight words to define and then give options for in the same way for your partner, making up your own definitions. Your partner will do the same for you with different words, so write your guesses and then choice of the options below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Try to guess if you are more British or more American, then check with your partner's sheet.

Teacher's script & Suggested answers

Read out just the definitions below, checking that students only write one answer for each or leave the gaps blank. Don't correct them if they write something wrong at this stage.

1. It's the covering of the engine of your car – **bonnet/** hood
2. It's the part which protects your car during a crash – **bumper/** fender
3. It's the thing that you press with your foot to make a car speed up – **accelerator/ accelerator pedal/** gas pedal
4. It's the window at the front of a car – **windscreen/** windshield
5. It's the pipe where the smoke comes out of the back of the car – **exhaust pipe/** tailpipe
6. The place where water comes from, sometimes with one for hot and one for cold – **faucet/ tap**
7. The part of a radio or TV which receives signals – **aerial/** antenna
8. The abbreviation for mathematics – math/ **maths**
9. The opposite of clockwise – **anti-clockwise/** counter-clockwise
10. Another way to say "a half" – **nought point oh five/** zero point zero five
11. Two times seventy five – a hundred and thirty/ a hundred thirty
12. A machine which copies documents – copy machine/ **photocopier**
13. A person who fixes equipment such as air conditioners – service engineer/ service technician
14. A large metal box where you put lots of rubbish to be taken away by a truck, for example when demolishing a house – Dumpster/ **skip**
15. The fuel for a camping stove – kerosene/ **paraffin**

Read the definitions again, this time followed by the options. Make sure students have written just one option, and that they are only changing what they wrote if they didn't write one of options or they are sure that they would actually be more likely to say that other thing when speaking English.



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Student A

cell phone/ **mobile phone**

gas station/ **petrol station**

automatic gearbox/ automatic transmission

lorry/ truck

handbrake/ parking brake

flashlight/ **torch**

muffler/ **silencer**

electricity pylon/ **pylon**/ transmission mast/ transmission tower

-----cut-----

Student B

elevator/ **lift**

bin/ garbage can/ trashcan

bump cap/ **hard hat**

one thousand two hundred and ten/ one thousand two hundred and ten

fire engine/ fire truck

electrical outlet/ outlet/ **socket**

spanner/ wrench

dustcart/ garbage truck