

Language Tips

We think we speak the same language on both sides of "the pond", but actually they are two different languages, they just have an awful lot of common words!

Lots of the words are pronounced differently and often even if they sound the same, the spelling is different!

Here are some words ending in '-our' in British English and '-or' in the USA:

Colour
Labour
Neighbour
Honour

'-ize' is often '-ise' in the UK:

Apologise
Terrorise
Finalise

And don't forget the '-tre' endings instead of the '-ter' ending used in the USA:

Centre
Litre
Theatre

Here is a list of other "interesting" spelling differences:

UK

Aluminium
Cheque
Defence
Programme

USA

Aluminum
Check
Defense
Program

Here are some phrases / words:

| | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| Carry on | Continue |
| Chap | Man |
| Cotton wool | Cotton ball |
| Cock/cockerel | Rooster |
| Cling-film | Food wrap (Saran wrap) |
| Clothes peg | Clothes pin |
| Clever | Smart / intelligent |
| Gone off | Spoiled / gone rotten |
| Made redundant | Layed off |

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Next door but one | Two houses/doors away |
| Sacked | Fired |
| Your go | Your turn |
| Ante-natal | Pre-natal |
| Bit | Part |
| Plaster | "Band-aid" |
| Nappy | Diaper |
| Tissue | "Kleenex" |
| Hoovering | Vacuuming |
| Fortnight | Two weeks |
| Ladybird | Ladybug |
| Petrol | Gas |
| Jug | Pitcher |
| Post / letter | Mail |
| Rubber | Eraser |
| "Sellotape" | Adhesive tape |
| Skip | Dumpster |
| Spanner | Wrench |
| Suss out | Find out |
| Tap | Faucet |
| Toilet | Bathroom |