CHRISTINE
BURGMER

let's talk business

British-American differences

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BRITISH-AMERICAN DIFFERENCES

George Bernard Shaw once said: “You should be aware of the differences between British English and American English so that you can adapt your style of communication to the situation.” And I fully agree with him!

That’s why I have prepared this checklist of British and American differences. So watch out in particular for:

- differences in spelling, such as *theatre* (British English) and *theater* (American English)
- words that are completely different, i.e. *pavement* (British English) and *sidewalk* (American English)
- identical words which have totally different meanings, i.e. *second floor* in British English is *first floor* in American English and
- words that can be quite safe in British English but dangerous in American English, or vice versa, e.g. “*to knock up*” means “*to wake someone up by knocking on their door*” in Britain, but “*to make a woman pregnant*” in America!

Do you see how knowing the differences can be important? ☺

British English	**American English**	**German**
accelerator	gas pedal	Gaspedal
accepting house	acceptance bank	Akzepthaus
accommodation	accommodations	Unterkunft
adjustable spanner	monkey wrench	Schraubenschlüssel
advisor	adviser	Berater/in
aerial	antenna	Antenne
aeroplane, plane	airplane	Flugzeug
afters	dessert	Nachtisch
afterwards	afterward	nachher
agony aunt	advice columnist	Briefkastentante
Alsatian	German shepherd	Schäferhund
aluminium	aluminum	Aluminium
amongst	among	zwischen, inmitten
analyse	analyze	auswerten, analysieren
anorak	jacket	Anorak
answerphone, ansaphone	answering machine	Anrufbeantworter
anti-clockwise	counter-clockwise	gegen den Uhrzeigersinn
annual general meeting (AGM)	annual meeting of shareholders	Jahreshauptversammlung
apart from, besides	aside from	außer
articles of association	articles of incorporation, by-laws	Gesellschaftssatzung, Gesellschaftsvertrag
articulated lorry	semi-trailer truck	Sattelschlepper
assistant lecturer (uni)	instructor	Assistent/in

athletics	track and field	Leichtathletik
at the weekend	on the weekend	am Wochenende
aubergine	eggplant	Aubergine
axe	ax	Axt
autumn	fall	Herbst
back garden	backyard	Garten (hinterm Haus)
badge	button	Abzeichen, Button
baked potato	jacket potato	in der Schale gebackene Kartoffel
baking sheet/tray	cookie sheet	Backblech
bangers	sausages	Würstchen
bank holiday	public/national holiday	Feiertag
banknote	bill	Geldschein
bank rate, minimum lending rate (M.L.R.)	discount rate	Leitzinsen, Diskontsatz
barmy	idiotic	bekloppt
base rate	prime rate	Eckzins
bath	bathe	ein Bad nehmen
bath a baby	bathe a baby	ein Kind baden
bathing costume	swimsuit	Badeanzug
beetroot	beet, red beet	Rote Beete
benefitted	benefited	begünstigt
berk	idiot	Dussel
bespoke	tailor made, customized	maßgeschneidert
bill	check	Rechnung
bills payable	notes payable	Wechselverbindlichkeiten
bills receivable	notes receivable	Wechselforderungen
bin	trashcan	Müllereimer, Mülltonne
bird	chick	Mädel, Biene
biscuit	cookie	Keks, Plätzchen
black	boycott	boykottieren
black grapes	red grapes	schwarze Weintrauben
blackpudding	blood sausage	Blutwurst
blancmange	vanilla pudding	Pudding
blimey	wow, my goodness	verflucht
blind	(window) shade	Jalousie
block of flats	apartment building	Wohnblock
bloke	guy	Kerl, Typ
blood group	blood type	Blutgruppe
bobbie	policeman	Polizist
boffin	expert	Eierkopf
bog	toilet	Toilette
boiled sweet	hard candy	Bonbon
bonnet (car)	hood	Motorhaube
bonus issue	stock split	Aktienteilung
boot	trunk	Kofferraum

booze	alcoholic drinks	Alkohol
boozer	pub	Wirtschaft
bottle bank	bottle return	Altglassammelstelle
braces	suspenders	Hosenträger
break (school)	recess	Pause
breakdown truck	tow truck	Abschleppwagen
breve (music)	double whole note	Brevis
bribery	payola	Bestechung
broad beans	lima beans	dicke Bohne, Saubohne
brush	broom	Handbesen
building society	building and loan association	Bausparkasse (auf Gegen-seitigkeit), Hypothekenbank
bum	butt	Hintern
bumbag	fanny pack	Gürteltasche
butcher's shop	butcher shop	Metzgerei
cake tin	cake pan	Kuchenform
camp bed	cot	Campingliege; Feldbett
candy floss	cotton candy	Zuckerwatte
capital gearing	leverage	Verhältnis Eigenkapital-Fremdkapital
car	automobile	Auto
caravan	trailer	Wohnwagen
card index	card catalog	Kartei
caretaker	janitor	Hausmeister
car park	parking lot	Parkplatz
car park	parking garage	Parkhaus
car park, multi-storey	parking structures	Parkhaus
carriage forward	freight forward	unfrei
carriage inward(s)	freight-in	Eingangsfrachtkosten
carriage outward(s)	freight-out	Ausgangsfrachtkosten
carrier bag	shopping bag	Tragetasche
cartel	trust	Kartell
cash on delivery (c.o.d.)	collect on delivery	per Nachnahme
castor	caster	Rolle, Rad
catalogue	catalog	Katalog
catalogue showroom	catalog store	Katalogladen
catapult	slingshot	Schleuder
centenary	centennial	hundertster Jahres-/ Geburtstag, Jahrhundert
central reservation	median (strip)	Grünstreifen
certificate of incorporation	corporation charter	Gründungsurkunde
chairman	president	Vorsitzende(r)
Chancellor of the Exchequer	Secretary of the Treasury	Schatzkanzler, Finanzminister
change gears (in a car)	shift gears	schalten
chap	guy	Kerl

chartered accountant	certified public accountant	(öffentlich zugelassener) Bilanzbuchhalter/Wirtschafts-prüfer
cheerio	goodbye	Tschüss
cheers	thank you	Danke
chemist's	drugstore/pharmacy	Drogerie, Apotheke
cheque	check	Scheck
chest of drawers	bureau	Kommode
chief accountant	chief accounting officer	Leiter/in des Rechnungswesens
child	kid	Kind
chips	French fries	Fritten
chum	buddie	Kumpel
cinema	movie theater	Kino
city centre	downtown	Innenstadt
Civil Aviation Authority	Federal Aviation Administration	Bundesluftfahrtbehörde
class	grade	Klasse
climbing frame	jungle gym	Klettergerüst
cloakroom	checkroom	Garderobe
close/closed company	close/closed corporation, closely-held corporation	GmbH mit beschränkter Mitgliederzahl
closing down sale	close-out sale	Räumungsverkauf bei Geschäftsaufgabe
clothes peg	clothes pin	Wäscheklammer
college staff	faculty (of a college)	Lehrkörper
colour	color	Farbe
company chairman/ chairwoman/chairperson	president	Vorstandsvorsitzende(r)
Competition Commission	Federal Trade Commission	Kartellamt
compulsory reading	required reading	Pflichtlektüre
confectionery	candy	Süßwaren
confidence trick (con trick)	confidence game	Schwindel
conscript for military service	draft	einberufen
conscript	draftee	Wehrpflichtige(r)
constable	patrolman/-woman	Polizist/in
cookery book	cookbook	Kochbuch
copper	policeman	Polizist/in
corn	maize	Mais
corporation tax	corporate income tax	Körperschaftssteuer
cot	crib	Kinderbett
cot death	crib death	plötzlicher Kindstod
cotton buds	cotton tips, Q-tips	Wattestäbchen
cotton wool	cotton ball	Watte
council tax	local tax, city tax	Gemeindesteuer, Kommunal-abgaben
counsel for the defence	public defender	Pflichtverteidiger/in
courgette	zucchini	Zucchini
court shoes	pumps	Pumps

coverage	reach	Berichterstattung in den Medien
credit note	credit memo	Gutschriftanzeige
crib	pony	Spickzettel
crib	cot	Futterkrippe
crib	crèche	Krippe
crisps	potato chips	Chips
crotchet	quarter note	Viertelnote
cum-dividend shares	dividend-on stock	Aktien mit Dividende
cupboard	closet	Schrank
current account	checking account	laufendes Konto, Girokonto
curriculum vitae (CV)	résumé	Lebenslauf
curtains	drapes	Vorhänge
cushion (on sofa)	pillow	Kissen
custard	custard sauce	Vanillasoße
Customs and Excise	Bureau of Customs	Behörde für Zölle und Verbrauchssteuern
cut-price goods	cut-rate goods	Sonderangebote
death/estate duty	inheritance tax	Erbschaftssteuer
debenture	debenture bond	Schuldverschreibung
debit note	debit memo	Belastungsanzeige
defence	defense	Verteidigung
demister	defroster	
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Umweltministerium
Department for Transport	Department of Transportation	Verkehrsministerium
Department for Work and Pensions	Depart of Labor	Arbeitsministerium
Department of Trade and Industry	Department of Commerce	Wirtschaftsministerium, Handelsministerium
deposit account	time account/deposit	Sparkonto
dialling tone	dial tone	Freizeichen
diary	date book	Terminkalender
dice	die	Würfel
different from	different than	anders als
director	vice-president	Hauptabteilungsleiter/in
directory enquiries	directory assistance	Fernsprechauskunft
diversion	detour	Umleitung
dodgem	bumper car	Autoskooter
dole, to be on the	to be on relief	von der Fürsorgeleben
doll's house	dollhouse	Puppenhaus
dosshouse	flophouse	Obdachlosenheim
double cream	whipping cream	Schlagsahne
doughnut	donut	Berliner
down-market, to go	trading down	sich dem Massenmarkt zuwenden

draught	draft	Durchzug
draughts	checkers	Damespiel
drawing pin	thumb tack	Reißzwecke
dressing gown	robe	Hausmantel
drinks trolley	drinks cart	Getränkewagen
driving licence	driver('s) license	Führerschein
dual carriageway	divided highway	Schnellstraße (a major road
on which the 2 streams of	traffic are separated)	
dummy	comforter, pacifier	Schnuller
dustbin	trash can, garbage can	Mülltonne
dustman	garbage man/collector	Müllmann
duvet	comforter	Deckbett
dux	valedictorian	Abschiedsredner/in
employ, engage (a person)	hire	einstellen
encyclopaedia	encyclopedia	Lexikon, Enzyklopädie
engaged	busy	besetzt
engaged tone	busy signal	Besetztzeichen
enrol	enroll	einschreiben, anmelden
estate agent	realtor	Grundstücksmakler/in
estate car	station wagon	Kombi
excise duty	excise tax	Warensteuer, Verbrauchssteuer
ex-dividend shares	dividend-off stock	Aktien ohne Dividende
expiry date	expiration date	Verfallsdatum
(face) flannel, facecloth	washcloth	Waschlappen
fag	cigarette	Zigarette
fail in an exam	flunk	durchfallen
fair copy	final copy	Reinschrift
family	folks	Familie
favourite	favorite	Lieblings-
fellow, chap	guy	Mann, Typ
film	movie	Kinofilm
finance director	chief financial officer	Finanzdirektor/in
fire brigade	fire department	Feuerwehr
first floor	second floor	1. Etage
fish fingers	fish sticks	Fischstäbchen
fishmonger's	fish store	Fischgeschäft
fixed assets	non-current assets	Sachanlagen, Anlagevermögen
fizzy drink	soda, pop	Brause
flan	pie	Kuchen
flat	apartment	Wohnung
(block of flats)	(apartment-house)	(Wohnblock)
flat mate	roommate	Mitbewohner
flat to let	apartment for rent	Wohnung zu vermieten
flat tyre	flat	(Reifen)panne
flex	cord	Schnur, Kabel

flexitime	flextime	Gleitzeit
football	soccer	Fußball
football boots	cleats	Fußballschuhe
Foreign Office	State Department	Auswärtiges Amt/Außen-ministerium
Foreign Secretary	Secretary of State	Außenminister/in
forklift truck	forklift	Gabelstapler
form, class	grade	Klasse
former	one-time	ehemalig
fortnight	two weeks	vierzehn Tage
franking machine	postage meter	Frankiermaschine
Freefone	toll-free 800 number	gebührenfreier Anruf
French bean	snow peas	grüne Bohnen
friendly society	benefit society	Versicherungsverein auf Gegenseitigkeit (VaG)
fringe	bangs	Pony (Haar)
full stop	period	Punkt
funfair	carnival	Kirmes
funnel	smokestack	Schornstein
garden	yard	Garten
gearbox	transmission	Getriebe
gear lever/gear stick	gear shift	Schaltknüppel
gherkin	pickles	Gewürzgurke
gift token	gift certificate	Geschenkgutschein
ginger nut	ginger snap	Ingwerplätzchen
give up	quit	aufgeben
give way	yield	Vorfahrt achten
gobsmacked	speechless	platt
golden handshake	golden parachute	Abfindung
goods train	freight train	Güterzug
got	gotten	bekam
government	administration	Regierung
gradient	grade	Neigung
grate	shred	raspeln, reiben
greaseproof paper	waxed paper	Pergamentpapier
ground floor	first floor	Erdgeschoß
groundsheet	ground cloth	Zeltbodenplane
grill	broil	grillen
gauge	gage	abschätzen, beurteilen
guillotine	paper cutter	Hebeschneidmaschine
gut fish	clean fish	(Fisch) ausnehmen
half six, half past six	six thirty, half past six	halb sieben
hall of residence	dormitory, dorm	Studentenwohnheim
handbag	purse	Handtasche
handbill, handout	dodger	Flugblatt
handbrake	emergency/parking brake	Handbremse

hand luggage	carry-on baggage	Handgepäck
hard shoulder	breakdown lane	Seitenstreifen
haricot beans	navy beans	Gartenbohne
haulier	hauler	Spediteur
headmaster/headmistress	principal	Schuldirektor(in)
heated rear window	rear defroster	beheizte Heckscheibe
hen night	bachelorette night	Party für die Braut vor der Hochzeit
hill-walking	hiking	Bergwandern
hire (a car)	rent (a car)	(ein Auto) mieten
hire purchase	installment plan	Ratenkauf
hoarding	billboard	Plakatwand, Reklametafel
hob	stove, cooktop	Kochfeld
holdall	duffle bag	Reisetasche
holiday	vacation	Urlaub
holidaymaker	vacationer	Urlauber
homosexual	fag	homosexuell
hood (car)	convertible top	Verdeck
hoover	vacuum cleaner	Staubsauger
hot money	funk money	heißes Geld
household appliances	home appliances	Hausgeräte
house-trained	house-broken	stubenrein
hyphen	dash	Bindestrich
ice lolly	popsicle	Eis am Stiel
icing	frosting	Zuckerguß
icing sugar	powdered sugar	Puderzucker
ill	sick	krank
income support	welfare benefits	Sozialhilfe
indicator	turn signal, blinker	Richtungsanzeiger, Blinker
induction	introduction	Einarbeitung, Einweisung
industrial estate	industrial park	Gewerbegebiet
Inland revenue	Internal Revenue Service (I.R.S.)	Finanzamt
insect	bug	Insekt
ironmonger	hardware dealer	Eisenwarenhändler/in
ironmongery	hardware	Eisenwaren
issuing house/bank	investment bank	Emissionsbank, Investmentbank
jacket potato	baked potato	(in der Schale) gebackene Kartoffel
jam	jelly	Konfitüre
jelly	jello	Wackelpudding
jemmy	jimmy	Brech-/Stemmeisen
jewellery	jewelry	Schmuck
joint	beef roast	Braten
jug	pitcher	Krug
jumble sale	yard sale	Flohmarkt

jumper	sweater	Pullover
junk shop	junk store	Ramschladen
kennel	doghouse	Hundehütte
kilogramme	kilogram	Kilogramm
kip	nap	Schläfchen
kit (sports)	uniform	Zeug, Sachen
knackered/shattered	tuckered out	geschafft, kaputt
knickers	women's underpants/panties	Schlüpfer
knock up (to wake up)	knock up (to make pregnant)	aufwecken/ein Kind anhängen
know-all	know-it-all	Besserwisser, Neunmalkluger
ladder	run	Laufmasche
ladderproof	runproof	laufmaschensicher
ladybird	ladybug	Marienkäfer
lay of the land	lie of the land	Sachlage, Lage der Dinge
layby	truck stop, rest area	Parkbucht, Rastplatz
leading article, editorial	editorial	Leitartikel
lecturer (uni)	assistant professor	Dozent/in
lemon squeezer	juicer	Zitronenpresse
lend	loan	leihen
letter box	mail slot	Briefkasten
life assurance	life insurance	Lebensversicherung
lift	elevator	Aufzug
limited (liability) company (Ltd.)	closed corporation (Inc.)	Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung (GmbH)
liquidiser	electric blender	Mixgerät
liver sausage	liverwurst	Leberwurst
livery	company colors	Firmenfarben
lodger	roomer	Untermieter/in
lollipop	sucker	Lutscher
loo	restroom	Klo
lorry	truck	Lastwagen
luggage	baggage	Gepäck
(luggage van)	(baggage car)	(Gepäckwagen)
mackintosh	raincoat, windbreaker	Regenmantel
main subject	major	Hauptfach
manager	director	leitende(r) Angestellte(r)
managing director (M.D.)	chief executive officer (CEO)	Geschäftsführer, (Haupt)-Betriebsleiter
manoeuvre	maneuver	Feldzug
mark	grade	korrigieren und benoten
match	game	Spiel
maths, mathematics	math	Mathematik
meet	meet with	sich treffen mit
mince, minced meat	ground beef	Hackfleisch

minim (music)	half note	halbe Note
misjudgement	misjudgment	Fehlurteil
mobile phone	cell phone, cellie	Handy
momentarily	momentarily	BE für einen Augenblick/ AE jeden Augenblick
motorway	freeway, highway, expressway	Autobahn
mould	mold	Schimmel, Gießform
mouse mat	mouse pad	Mausmatte
moustache	mustache	Schnurrbart
mudguard	fender	Schutzblech
muesli	granola	Müsli
multiple store	chain store	Filialgeschäft
mum	mom	Mutter, Mutti
nappy	diaper	Windel
national insurance	social security	Sozialversicherung
neat (of a drink)	straight	pur, unverdünnt
newspaper cutting	newspaper clipping	Zeitungsausschnitt
notice board	bulletin board	schwarzes Brett
nought	zero	Null
number plate	license plate	Nummernschild
of course	sure	(Aber) Natürlich
Office of Fair Trading	Better Business Bureau	Amt für Verbraucherschutz
off-licence	liquor store	Wein- und Spirituosenhandel
old-age pensioner (OAP)	senior	Rentner/in
omnibus	tram	Autobus
one-man business	sole proprietorship	Einzelnunternehmen
operative	operator	Maschinist/in
optional	elective	Wahl-
ordinary shares, equities	common stock	Stammaktien
or nearest offer (o.n.o.)	or best offer (o.b.o.)	Verhandlungsbasis
outgoings	expenditures	Ausgänge
owners' equity, shareholders' equity, net worth	proprietors' capital, net equity	reiner Wert eines Betriebs
packet	pack, package	Paket
pack of cards	deck of cards	Kartenspiel
packet of cigarettes	pack of cigarettes	Schachtel Zigaretten
page(boy)	bellboy, bellhop	Page, Hoteljunge
pants	underpants	Unterhosen
paraffin (oil)	kerosene	Paraffin
parcel	package	Päckchen, Paket
past	after, past	nach (Uhrzeit)
pavement	sidewalk	Bürgersteig
pay-as-you-earn (P.A.Y.E.)	withholding tax	Quellensteuer, Lohnsteuer-abzugsverfahren

pedestrian precinct	pedestrian zone	Fußgängerzone
pedlar	peddler/pedler	Hausierer
pension scheme	pension plan	Altersversorgung
pensioner	senior	Rentner
personnel	human resources	Personal
personnel manager	director of human resources	Personalchef
perspex	plexiglass	Acrylglas
petrol(eum)	gas(oline)	Benzin
petrol station	gas station, filling station	Tankstelle
picnic area	rest stop	Restplatz
pig	hog	Schwein
pigtails	braids	Zöpfe
pilchards	sardines	Sardinen
pint	pint	BE 20 fluid ounces/AE 16 fluid ounces
pip	seed, pit	Kern
pissed	pissed	BE betrunken/AE verärgert
pitch	field	Feld, Platz
placement	internship	Praktikum
plait	braid	Zopf
planning permission	zoning permission	Baugenehmigung
plaster	bandage or Band-Aid™	Pflaster
plough	plow	Pflug
plough back	plow back	reinvestieren
policeman/-woman	patrolman/-woman	Polizist/in
police station	station house	Polizeiwache
polo neck	turtle neck	Rollkragen
polythene	polyethylene	Polyäthylen
positive/reverse discrimination	affirmative action	Quotenregelung, Gleichstellungsprogramm
post	mail	Post
postal vote	absentee ballot	Briefwahl
postbox, letter box	mailbox	Briefkasten
postcode	zip code	Postleitzahl
poste restante	general delivery	postlagernd
postman	mail/letter carrier	Postbote
potholing	caving, spelunking	Höhlenforschung
pram	baby carriage, baby buggy, stroller	Kinderwagen
prawn	shrimp	Garnele, Krabbe
preference shares	preferred stock	Vorzugsaktien
press-up	push-up	Liegestütz
prise, prize	pry	aufbrechen
prison	penitentiary	Gefängnis
private limited company	private limited corporation	Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Haftung
professor	full professor	Professor

profit-and-loss account (P&L a/c)	income statement	Gewinn- und Verlustrechnung
programme	program	Programm
provision	reserve	Rückstellung
proxy	power of attorney	Handlungsvollmacht, Prokura
proxy	attorney	Prokurist(in),Handlungsbevollmächtigte(r)
pub(lic house)	bar	Kneipe
public convenience	restroom	Toilette
public limited company (P.L.C.)	publicly-held corporation, open corporation	Aktiengesellschaft
public prosecutor	district attorney	Staatsanwalt
public relations	public affairs	Öffentlichkeitsarbeit
public school	private school	Privatschule
public holiday	holiday	öffentlicher Feiertag
public transport	public transportation	öffentliche Verkehrsmittel
pudding	dessert	Nachtisch
puncture	flat	Reifenpanne
purse	change purse, coin purse, wallet	Portemonnaie
pushchair	stroller, baby buggy	Sportwagen
pyjamas	pajamas	Schlafanzug
quaver (music)	eighth note	Achtelnote
queue	line	Schlange
railway	railroad	Bahn
rails	tracks	Gleis(e)
randy	horny	scharf, geil
rasher of ham	slice of ham	Schinkenscheibe
rate of stock turnover	rate of inventory turnover	Lagerumschlag
read (subject at a university)	study	studieren
receptionist	desk clerk	Empfangsdame
redundancy	severance	Arbeitslosigkeit nach Rationalisierung
redundancy payment	severance payment	Entlassungsabfindung
reel	spool	Spule
retail price index (R.P.I.)	consumer price index (C.P.I.)	Einzelhandelspreisindex
return ticket	round-trip ticket	Rückfahrkarte
revenue reserves	retained earnings	Gewinnrücklagen
reverse-charge call	collect call	R-Gespräch
reverse charges	call collect	ein R-Gespräch anmelden
ring	call	anrufen
rise (in salary)	raise	(Gehalts)erhöhung
road haulage	trucking/truckage	Güterkraft- und Fernverkehr
roadway	pavement (paved road)	Straße
roast potato	oven browned potato	Kartoffel in Fett im Backofen gebraten

roller blind	roller shade	Springrollo
roundabout	traffic circles, rotaries	Kreisverkehr
rowing boad	row boat	Ruderboot
rowlock	oarlock	Dolle
rubber	eraser	Radiergummi
rubbish	trash, garbage	Müll, Abfall
rucksack	backpack	Rucksack
sack	dismiss, fire	entlassen
sailing dinghy	sailboat	Segelboot
saloon	sedan	Limousine
scheme	plan	Plan
school leaver	graduate	Schulabgänger/in
scribbling block/pad	scratch pad	Notizblock
season ticket	commutation ticket	Zeitkarte
second floor	third floor	2. Etage
see-saw	teeter-totter, teeterboard	Wippe
self-catering	no meals included	Selbstversorgung
Sellotape™	Scotch tape™	Tesafilm™
semibreve (music)	whole note	ganze Note
semiquaver (music)	sixteenth note	Sechzehntelnote
send	mail	schicken
senior lecturer	associate professor	Dozent/in (in höherer Position)
share capital	stock capital	Aktienkapital
share (price) index	index of stocks	(nationaler) Aktienindex
shares	stock	Aktien
shop	store	Geschäft
shop assistant	sales clerk	Verkäufer/in
shopping arcade/precinct	shopping mall	Einkaufszentrum
shop-soiled	shop-worn	angestaubt, leicht beschädigt
shorthand	stenography	Kurzschrift
shorthand writer	stenographer	Stenograf/in
side boards	sideburns	Koteletten
sieve	sifter	Sieb
signalled	signaled	signalisiert
silencer	muffler	Schalldämpfer
single cream	light cream	süsse Sahne
single ticket	one-way ticket	Einzelfahrkarte
skip	dumpster, trash bin	Container
skirting board	baseboard	Fußleiste
skive	playing hookie	schwänzen
sleeper (railway)	tie	Schwelle
sleeping partner	silent partner	stiller Teilhaber/Gesellschafter
sleeping policeman	speed-bump/hump	Bodenschwelle
slip road	ramp	Autobahnauffahrt/ausfahrt
slowcoach	slowpoke	Transuse
soft toy	stuffed animal	Stofftier

sole trader	sole proprietor	Einzelunternehmer
solicitor	lawyer, attorney	Rechtsanwalt
sorry	excuse me	Entschuldigung!
sorry?, pardon?	Excuse me?	Wie bitte?
source and application of funds statement	fund(s) flow statement	Mittelherkunfts- und Verwendungsrechnung
spanner (adjustable -)	monkey wrench	Schraubenschlüssel
sparking plug	spark plug	Zündkerze
speciality	specialty	Spezialität
spelt	spelled	buchstabiert
spirits	liquour	Spirituosen
spring onion	green onion	Frühlingszwiebel
stabilisers	training wheels	Stützräder
stag night	bachelor party	Saufabend des Bräutigams
stalagmite, stalagtite	flowstone	Stalagmit, Stalagtit
stand/run for election	run for election	für ein Amt kandidieren
starter	appetizer	Vorspeise
Stationery Office, Her Majesty's	US Government Printing Office	Staatsdruckerei
stationmaster	station agent	Bahnhofsvorsteher/in
Statistics, Office of National	Census Bureau	Statistisches Amt
steady on	"hold your horse!"	Sachte!
stilettos	pumps, high heels	Schuhe mit Pfennigabsätzen
stock	inventory	Ware
stocktaking	inventory	Inventur
stock turnover	inventory turnover	Lagerumschlag
stock-car racing	demolition derby	Stockcarrennen
stone	pit	Stein
streetwise	street-smart	gewieft
subscriber trunk dialling (S.T.D.)	direct distance dialing	Selbstwählferndienst
subsidiary subject	minor	Nebenfach
subway	underground street crossing, underpass	Unterführung
suggest so. for a job	slate so.	jmdn. vorschlagen
sulphate	sulfate	Sulfa
sultanas	golden raisins/seedless white raisins	Sultaninen
summer time	daylight (saving) time, (DST)	Sommerzeit
sunrise	sun-up	Sonnenaufgang
sunset	sundown	Sonnenuntergang
surgery (doctor's/dentist's)	doctor's/dentist's office	Arzt-/Zahnarztpraxis
suppose	figure, guess	annehmen
swede	turnip	Steckrübe
sweet	dessert	Nachtisch
sweetcorn	corn, maize	Mais
sweets	candy	Süssigkeiten
sweet shop	candy store	Süßwarenladen
Swiss roll	jelly roll	Biskuitrolle

switch selling	bait and switch selling	Kundenwerbung durch Sonder-angebote/Lockvogelangebote
takeaway	take-out	Essen zum Mitnehmen
tap	faucet, tap	Wasserhahn
tarmac	asphalt	Asphalt
taxi	cab, hack	Taxi
telephonist, switchboard operator	switchboard operator	Telefonist(in)
telly	TV	Fernseher
temperature	fever	Fieber
term	semester	Semester
terrace(d) house	row house, town house	Reihenhaus
testimonial	(letter of) recommendation	Arbeitszeugnis
theatre	theater	Theater
third-year student/student in his/her third year	junior	Student(in) im 3. Jahr
tick	check mark, check	Häkchen
tie	necktie	Krawatte
tights	panty-hose	Strumpfhose
timetable	schedule	Fahrplan
tin	can	Dose
tinned fruit	canned fruit	Dosenobst
tin-opener	can-opener	Dosenöffner
toilet	rest room, bathroom	Toilette
toll road	turnpike	Mautstraße
torch	flashlight	Taschenlamp
tracksuit	sweats	Trainingsanzug
trade union	labor union	Gewerkschaft
trainers	sneakers, running shoes	Turnschuhe
training manager	director of educational services	Leiter/in des Ausbildungs- und Schulungswesens
tram	streetcar	Straßenbahn
tramp	hobo	Land/Stadtstreicher
transport	transportation	Transport
travelling	traveling	Reisen
treacle	molasses	Sirup
Treasury, Her Majesty's	Department of the Treasury	Finanzminsterium
trolley	shopping cart	Einkaufswagen
trousers	pants	Hosen
trunk-call	toll call	Ferngespräch
tube	subway	U-Bahn
truncheon	nightstick, club	Schlagstock, Knüppel
trunk call	long-distance call	Ferngespräch
TV channel	TV station	Fernsehsender
typing pool	word-processing (W.P.) pool	Schreibzentrale
tyre	tire	Reifen

underground	subway	U-Bahn
underlay	carpet pad	Unterlage (unter Teppich)
unemployment benefit	unemployment compensation	Arbeitslosengeld
unit trust	mutual fund	offener Aktienfonds/Investmentfonds
up-market, to go	trading up	anspruchsvollere Produkte anbieten
value-add tax	sales tax	Mehrwertsteuer
veranda(h)	porch	Veranda
verge	soft shoulder	begraster Seitenstreifen
vest	undershirt	Unterhemd
vice	vise	Schraubstock
wages office	payroll office	Lohnbüro
waistcoat	vest	Weste
wallet	billfold	Brieftasche
(wash) basin, sink	sink	Waschbecken
washing-up bowl	dish pan	Spülschüssel
wash one's hands and face	wash up	sich waschen
waste-paper basket	waste basket	Papierkorb
watch glass	crystal	Uhrglas
watch strap	watchband	Uhrarmband
Wellingtons	rubber boots, galoshes	Gummistiefel
white grapes	green grapes	grüne Weintrauben
windscreen	windshield	Windschutzscheibe
wing (of a car)	fender	Kotflügel
wing mirror	side mirror	Seitenspiegel
within	inside of	innerhalb
works manager	plant manager	Werksleiter
wrench	pliers	Schraubenschlüssel
yacht	sailboat	Yacht
yell	holler	schreien
zed	zee	Z
Zimmer (frame)	walker	Gehgerät
zip	zipper	Reißverschluss

And watch the grammar!

There are differences in British and American English grammar, too.

The British use the present perfect where the Americans often use the simple past:

British English	**American English**
He **has** just **arrived**.	He just **arrived**.
He **has** already **done** that.	He already **did** that.
I **have got** that.	I **got** that.

Americans use “gotten” for the past participle of “get”:

British English	**American English**
I’ve got to know him very well.	**I’ve gotten** to know him very well.

And there are a few differences in the use of prepositions:

British English	**American English**
You can reach me **on** 138495.	You can reach me **at** 138495.
Let’s meet **at** the weekend.	Let’s meet **on** the weekend.
Mark works Monday **to** Friday in a shop.	Mark works Monday **through** Friday in a shop.