

British and American household vocabulary quiz

Checking/ clarifying practice

Work in pairs with different worksheets. Take turns asking questions from your worksheet. The other person gets one point for each correct guess, and the questioner gets one point each time that the other person guesses wrongly, continuing until the other person gets the right answer or gives up (except for Yes/ No questions, for which only one guess is allowed). If the other person gives up before answering for the first time or before answering again, the questioner should just say the answer and no points are given.

Checking/ clarifying phrases presentation

After finishing the quiz, put one word into each gap. Some can go in more than one gap.

- Is “accommodation” countable _____ uncountable in British English? Uncountable.
- _____ I check what “wash up” means in British and American English? Do the dishes in the UK and wash your hands before a meal in the USA.
- Can _____ explain what the words “hob”, “burner” and “cooktop” all mean? The hot bits you put pans on to cook.
- Can you _____ an example of an American food processor brand? Cuisinart.
- Can you say “wardrobe” _____ another way? Closet.
- Can you write _____ the American word “dryer” (meaning “tumble dryer”)?
- Clorox is a well-known brand of American washing powder. _____ that right? No, it isn't. (It's a brand of bleach).
- _____ the American expression “front yard” mean “front garden”? Yes, it does.
- _____ can you translate “drapes” into British English? Curtains.
- How _____ you pronounce “M, O, R, T, G, A, G, E” (the British word for a home loan)? “More-gidge”
- How do _____ say “washing up” liquid in American English? Dishwashing liquid.
- How do you _____ “stroller” (the American word for a pushchair)? S, T, R, O, L, L, E, R.
- How many syllables are _____ in “terraced house” (British English for “row house/ townhouse”)?
- How similar are a British aerial and an American antenna? They are _____ same.
- _____ a Hoover a vacuum cleaner? Yes, it is.
- Is an American tea kettle the same _____ a teapot? No, it isn't. It's a kettle.
- Is there another way to _____ the British word “rubbish”? “Trash” or “garbage”.
- Is “block of flats” British _____ American English? British English.
- Is “bin” _____ right British English translation of “trashcan”? Yes, it is.
- What do the American expressions “bathroom” and “restroom” _____? Toilet.
- What is “semi” short _____ in British English? Semi-detached house.
- What's the difference _____ a British cooker and an American cooker? The American one is a person.

-----fold, cover or cut-----

Use these mixed answers to help. Some can be used more than once.

as	between	can	do/ does
down	for	give	how
in	is	mean	or
say	spell	the	there
			you

Student A

Work in pairs with different worksheets. Take turns asking questions from your worksheet. The other person gets one point for each correct guess, and the questioner gets one point each time that the other person guesses wrongly (apart from Yes/ No questions, which can only be guessed once). If the other person gives up before answering, no one gets any points.

- Is “accommodation” countable or uncountable in British English? Uncountable. (It’s the plural word “accommodations” in American English).
- Can I check what “wash up” means in British and American English? Do the dishes in the UK and wash your hands before a meal in the USA.
- Can you explain what the words “socket” and “outlet” both mean? They are the places where you get electricity out of the wall.
- Can you give an example of an American reclining chair brand? La-Z-Boy.
- Can you say “wardrobe” in another way? Closet.
- Can you write down the American word “dryer” (meaning “tumble dryer”) for me?
- Clorox is a well-known brand of American washing powder. Is that right? No, it isn’t. (It’s a brand of bleach).
- Does the American expression “front yard” mean “front garden”? Yes, it does.
- How can you translate “drapes” into British English? Curtains.
- How do you pronounce “D, U, V, E, T” (the British word for the comforter on your bed)? “Doo-vey”
- How do you say “hot water tap” in American English? Hot water faucet.
- How do you spell “story” in “the third story of my house” in British English? S, T, O, R, E, Y.
- How many syllables are there in “terraced house” (British English for “row house/ townhouse”)? Three.
- How similar are a British aerial and an American antenna? They are the same.
- Is a Brillo Pad a scouring pad? Yes, it is.
- Is an American apartment the same as a British flat? Yes, it is.
- Is an American cot the same as a British cot? No, it isn’t. (A camp bed and a baby’s bed respectively).
- Is there another way to say the British word “rubbish”? “Trash” or “garbage”.
- Is “block of flats” British or American English? British. (It’s “apartment block” in the US).
- Is “bin” the right British English translation of “trashcan”? Yes, it is.
- What do the American expressions “bathroom” and “restroom” mean? Toilet.
- What is “dorm” short for in British and American English? Dormitory.
- What’s the difference between a British cooker and an American cooker? The American one is a person.

Student B

Work in pairs with different worksheets. Take turns asking questions from your worksheet. The other person gets one point for each correct guess, and the questioner gets one point each time that the other person guesses wrongly (apart from Yes/ No questions, which can only be guessed once). If the other person gives up before answering, no one gets any points.

- Is a British flannel (meaning a facecloth) countable or uncountable? Countable.
- Can I check what “third floor” means in British and American English? The third floor above the ground in British English and the second floor above the ground in American English.
- Can you explain what the words “hob”, “burner” and “cooktop” all mean? The hot bits you put pans on to cook.
- Can you give an example of an American food processor brand? Cuisinart.
- Can you say “washer” in a different way? Washing machine.
- Can you write down the British expression “electric razor” (meaning “electric shaver”)?
- Dumpster is a well-known American brand of skip? Is that right? Yes, it is.
- Does the American expression “easy chair” mean “armchair”? Yes, it does.
- How can you translate “clothes peg” into American English? Clothes pin.
- How do you pronounce “M, O, R, T, G, A, G, E” (the British word for a home loan)? “More-gidge”
- How do you say “washing up” liquid in American English? Dishwashing liquid
- How do you spell “stroller” (the American word for a pushchair)? S, T, R, O, L, L, E, R.
- How many syllables are there in “chest of drawers” (British English for “bureau” or “dresser”) ? Three.
- How similar are the British and American meanings of “hamper”? They are quite different (a picnic basket in the UK and a laundry basket in the USA).
- Is a Hoover a vacuum cleaner? Yes, it is.
- Is an American tea kettle the same as a teapot? No, it isn't. (It's a kettle.)
- Is a British pram the same as an American baby carriage? Yes, it is.
- Is there another way to say the British action “lay the table”? Set the table.
- Is “kitchen roll” British or American English? British English. (It's “paper towel” in the US).
- Is “saucepan” the right British English translation of “dishpan”? No, it isn't. (The right British English translation of “dishpan” is “washing up bowl”).
- What does the American expression “front walk” mean? Garden path.
- What is “semi” short for in British English? Semi-detached house. (It's a “semi-trailer truck” in American English).
- What's the difference in meaning between a tea towel and a dish towel? There is no difference.

First of all without looking above, match the British and American words with the same meaning in each section below:

accommodation
socket
wardrobe
front garden
curtains
hot water tap
terraced house
aerial
rubbish

antenna
closet
drapes
...faucet
outlet
row.../ town...
...s
trash/ garbage
yard

block of flats
bin
toilet
flannel
hob
washing machine
clothes peg
mortgage
washing up liquid

apartment block
bathroom/ restroom
burner/ cooktop
dishwashing...
facecloth
home loan
... pin
trashcan
washer

pushchair
chest of drawers
hoover
pram
lay the table
washing up bowl
kitchen roll
garden path
tea towel

baby carriage
bureau/ dresser
dish...
dishpan
front walk
paper towel
set...
stroller
vacuum cleaner

Check above.

Try to remember the two meanings of each expression below, the check above.

- wash up
- cot
- cooker
- third floor
- hamper
- semi

Make at least one checking/ clarifying question from each key word below. Many phrases not above are also possible.

check

difference/ different

example

explain

how

is

mean

or

pronounce/ pronunciation

right

same

say

short

similar

spell

syllables

translate/ translation

way

write

Check above. Many other suitable phrases are possible (including with the same key words), so please check if you wrote something different.

Ask similar questions about spelling etc to each other, starting with household vocabulary if you can, but including any vocabulary you like if you run out of household questions.