

Giving directions in British and American English

Match the directions on the left with the equivalents on the right.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. block of flats | apartment |
| 2. car park | apartment building |
| 3. chemist's | downtown |
| 4. cinema | drugstore/ pharmacy |
| 5. city centre/ town centre | first floor |
| 6. estate agent | front yard |
| 7. first floor | parking lot |
| 8. flat | realtor |
| 9. front garden | second floor |
| 10. ground floor | theater/ movie theater |
| | |
| 11. high street | across from the station |
| 12. ironmonger | crosswalk |
| 13. junction | expressway/ highway |
| 14. motorway | gas station |
| 15. off license/ wine merchant | hardware store |
| 16. opposite the station | intersection |
| 17. pavement | liquor store |
| 18. pedestrian crossing/ zebra crossing | main street |
| 19. petrol station | sidewalk |
| | |
| 20. phone box | city hall |
| 21. post code | streetcar/ trolley |
| 22. roundabout | subway |
| 23. subway | taxi stand |
| 24. taxi rank | telephone booth |
| 25. town hall | traffic circle/ rotary |
| 26. traffic lights | traffic signals/ stoplights |
| 27. tram | underpass |
| 28. underground (railway) | zip code |

There is always one British English version and one American English version in each pair above, so check that you have matched them that way.

Check your answers as a class or with the suggested answers below.



Suggested answers

1. block of flats
2. car park
3. chemist's
4. cinema
5. city centre/ town centre
6. estate agent
7. first floor
8. flat
9. front garden
10. ground floor

- apartment building
- parking lot
- drugstore/ pharmacy
- theater/ movie theater
- downtown
- realtor
- second floor
- apartment
- front yard
- first floor

11. high street
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- main street
- hardware store
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- telephone booth
- zip code
- traffic circle/ rotary
- underpass
- taxi stand
- city hall
- traffic signals/ stoplights
- streetcar/ trolley
- subway

Ask about any which you don't understand, don't know how to pronounce, think might have different meanings, etc.

Without looking above, write the British English of each American expression below.

- | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|
| 1. | apartment building |
| 2. | parking lot |
| 3. | drugstore/ pharmacy |
| 4. | theater/ movie theater |
| 5. | downtown |
| 6. | realtor |
| 7. | second floor |
| 8. | apartment |
| 9. | front yard |
| 10. | first floor |
| | |
| 11. | main street |
| 12. | hardware store |
| 13. | intersection |
| 14. | expressway/ highway |
| 15. | liquor store |
| 16. | across from the station |
| 17. | sidewalk |
| 18. | crosswalk |
| 19. | gas station |
| | |
| 20. | telephone booth |
| 21. | zip code |
| 22. | traffic circle/ rotary |
| 23. | underpass |
| 24. | taxi stand |
| 25. | city hall |
| 26. | traffic signals/ stoplights |
| 27. | streetcar/ trolley |
| 28. | subway |

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

Hint: The British versions should be in alphabetical order.

Key words

Use these key words to help with the brainstorm task above. Most need to be combined with other words.

agent	block	box	estate	garden
ground	high	iron-	license	motor-
off	pedestrian	post	rank	round-
street	town	under-	zebra	

Check above. Other versions are possible, so check if you wrote something different.