

**South African / British**

**American**

Vocabulary

flat  
pram  
grilled (meat)  
sweets  
biscuit  
chemist  
lift  
hire purchase  
porridge  
first floor  
pavement  
tap  
braces  
vest  
geyser  
draughts  
pack (cards)  
petrol  
bonnet (car)  
boot (car)  
interval  
holiday  
windscreen

apartment  
carriage  
broiled  
candy  
cookie  
druggist  
elevator  
instalment plan  
oatmeal  
second floor  
sidewalk  
faucet  
suspenders  
undershirt  
water heater  
checkers  
deck  
gasoline, gas  
hood  
trunk  
intermission  
vacation  
windshield

Seem, look etc

*There can be a noun after **appear, feel, look, seem and sound.***

She **seemed** (to be) a good pilot.  
It **looks** (to be) a lovely evening.  
I **felt** a fool.

*Use **to be** or **like** after these verbs.*

She **seemed to be** a good pilot.  
It **looks to be** a lovely evening  
I **felt like** a fool

Present Perfect and

*Use present perfect for recent actions, especially with **just**, **already** and **yet**.*

Bob **has washed** the dishes, look.

We've already **eaten** our lunch.

I've just **seen** Elaine.

*Use the present perfect with **ever** and **never**, not the past simple.*

**Have** you ever **played** cricket?

The child **has** never **seen** snow before.

Shall

*Use **will** for the future, but can also use **shall** in the first person.*

I **will/shall** be here tomorrow.

We **will/shall** contact you.

*Use either the present perfect of the past simple in these sentences*

Bob **has washed** the dishes, look.  
OR Bob **washed** the dishes, look.

We've already **eaten** our lunch.  
OR We already ate **our** lunch.

I've just **seen** Elaine.  
OR I just **saw** Elaine.

*Normally use the past simple with **ever** and **never**, but the present perfect is possible.*

**Did** you ever **play** basketball?  
OR **Have** you ever **played** basketball?

The child never **saw** snow before.

OR The child **has** never **seen** snow before.

*Do not normally use **shall** for the future.*

I **will** be here tomorrow.

We **will** contact you.

Use **shall** to make an offer.

**Shall** I make the coffee?

Use **shall we...?** for a suggestion.

**Shall** we go for a walk?

Normally use **should** .

**Should** I make the coffee?

Do not normally use **shall** in suggestions.

**How about** a walk?

**Would you like** to take a walk?

Got and gotten

Do not use **gotten** .

He's **made** a lot of money from his business activities.

Your driving has **got** better.

**Have gotten** expresses an action.

He's **gotten/made** a lot of money from his business activities.

Your driving has **gotten** better.

Have

There are two different structures.

I **don't have** enough time.

OR I **haven't (got)** enough time.

**Does** Carol **have** a computer?

OR **Has** Carol **got** a computer?

Normally use the auxiliary **do** .

I **don't have** enough time.

**Does** Carol **have** a computer?

Emphatic **do**

Can use **do** with an imperative for emphasis.

Have a piece of cake.

OR **Do** have a piece of cake.

**Do** with an imperative is less common in the US.

Have a piece of cake.

**Do** for an action

Can use **do** to refer to an action already mentioned

Do not use **do** in this way.

I don't practice as often as I should (**do**). I don't practice as often as I should.

You'd better take your pill. -- I already have (**done**).

You'd better take your pill. -- I already have.

Question tags

*Can use question tags when talking about facts.*

*Can use question tags when talking about facts.*

*Often use right? and OK? as tags.*

Blackpool is in Lancashire, **isn't it**?

Las Vegas is in Nevada, **isn't it**?

I'll bring the luggage in, **shall I**?

I'll bring the baggage in, **OK**?

Can't and mustn't

*Can use **can't** to say that something is impossible.*

*Can also use **musn't** to say that something is impossible*

I rang, but there's no reply. They **can't** be at home.

I called, but there's no reply. They **can't** be at home.

I called, but there's no reply. They **musn't** be at home.

Needn't and don't need to

*Can use either form.*

*Do not normally use needn't.*

You **don't need** to see the inspector.  
You **needn't** see the inspector.

You **don't need** to see the inspector.

Group nouns

*A group noun can usually take either a singular or a plural verb*

*A group noun takes a singular verb.*

The crowd **was/were** getting restless.      The crowd **was** getting restless.

Sweden **play/plays** Germany tomorrow.      Sweden **play** Germany tomorrow.

**The** with music

Use **the** with a musical instrument.

Can leave out **the**.

I can play **the** piano.

I can play **the** piano.

I can play piano.

**In the** with hospital

Use **in**

Use **in the**.

My sister is still **in** hospital.

My sister is still **in the** hospital.

Numbers

Use **and** between **hundred** and the rest of the number.

Can leave out **and**.

six hundred **and** twenty

six hundred **and** twenty

OR six hundred twenty

Dates

*Most common ways of writing and saying dates.*

*Most common ways of writing and saying dates.*

23 June

June 23

the twenty-third of June

June twenty-third

June the twenty-third

23.6.2009

6.23.2009

You and one

Use **you** for people in general, including the speaker.

Use **you** for people in general. **One** is unusual.

In more formal English, use **one**.

**You/one** can't be too careful.

**You** can't be too careful.

Prepositions

*Some differences in prepositions.*

**round/around** the village  
**toward/towards** the west

looking **out of** the window

**outside** the town

They will stay in Brighton **until** the end of April.

This cup is different **from/to** the others.

**in** Bond Street  
**at** the weekend, **at** weekends  
stay **at** home  
a player **in** the team  
ten minutes **past** four  
twenty **to** seven  
write **to** me  
talk **to** someone  
meet someone.

*Some differences in prepositions.*

**around** the village  
**toward** the west  
looking **out of** the window / looking out the window

**outside** the town / **outside** of the town.

They will stay in Miami **through** April.

This cup is different **from/than** the others.

**on** Fifth Avenue  
**on** the weekend, **on** weekends  
stay home  
a player **on** the team  
ten minutes **past/after** four  
twenty **to/of** seven  
write me/write **to** me  
talk **to/with** someone  
meet **with** someone

Go and ...

*Use **and** in this structure.*

I'll go **and** buy the tickets.

*Can leave out **and** in this structure.*

I'll go buy/I'll go **and** buy the tickets.

The subjunctive

*Normally use the present simple or **should**.*

*Normally use a form called the "subjunctive"  
eg **get, go***

*Use the subjunctive only in formal English.*

Tim's parents have suggested that he **gets** a job/  
that he **should** get a job. Tim's parents have suggested that he **get** a job.

Irregular verbs

*In the past tens some verbs can have either an irregular **t** ending or the regular **ed** ending.*

*These verbs are **burn, learn, smell, spell, spill** and **spoil**.*

*Preferably use the **t** ending, although **ed** is also possible.*

They burnt/burned the old sofa.

You've **spelt/spelled** this word wrong.

*In the past tens some verbs can have either an*

*irregular **t** ending or the regular **ed** ending.*

*These verbs are **burn, learn, smell, spell, spill** and **spoil**.*

*Normally use the **ed** ending.*

They **burned** the old sofa.

You've **spelled** this word wrong.