

Linguistic Variation

How many English versions are there in the world?!

Actually, there is NO REAL answer to this question!

English is the Language of the UK. It was first introduced to the Americas by the British colonization in the late 16th C and early 17th Century. Its spread to the other countries was a result of many factors including: the British Trade, colonization and the spread of the British Empire.

(British Empire: is a political unit -law- that controls a number of nations/counties by one single authority.)

➡ Americans and British people speak the same language, which is the English language, but with enough differences to create various versions of the English language.

There are about 160 variety of the English language spoken in English speaking countries (UK, USA) and other foreign English dialects and accent.

For example, according to some references, there are 29 different English dialects in England; 27 different English dialects in the USA; 14 different English dialects in India; 13 different English dialects in Ireland; 9 different English dialects in Australia, etc.

Yet, regardless to their differences, **they are all English**.

➡ This is Linguistics Variation

Accent	Dialect
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A way of pronouncing a language.▪ Everyone in the world, no matter his/her language, has an accent.▪ It is related to phonology and phonetics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A particular form of the language.▪ It is common to a specific region or social group.▪ How language is pronounced and spoken in different regions.

➡ The variation between the different English versions include:

- Accent (Rules)
- Spelling (How a word is written)
- Vocabulary
- Grammar (rules)

➡ The table below includes some examples about the differences between the British and American English.

	American English	British English
Accent	They pronounce every “r” in the word.	They pronounce the “r” only when it is the first letter of the word.
Spelling	Color, behavior,...etc Theater Organize, Civilizati <u>o</u> n,...etc Travel <u>e</u> d	Colou <u>r</u> , behaviou <u>r</u> ,...etc Theatre Organis <u>e</u> , Civilisati <u>o</u> n,...etc Travel <u>l</u> ed
Vocabulary	Apartment College Vacation Soda Garbage Candy Cookies Yard Gas Store Mail Elevator Soccer	Flat University Holiday Soft drink Rubbish Sweets Biscuits Garden Petrol Shop Post Lift Football
Grammar	They tend to use <u>the past simple</u> to describe something that has recently occurred. For example: I ate too much / I went to the store / Did you get the newspaper? The past participle of the verb “to get” is <u>gotten</u> . Collective nouns (= group of people like: committee, team, government...etc) are always <u>singular</u> .	They tend to use <u>the present perfect</u> to describe something that has recently occurred. For example: I have eaten too much / I have gone to the store / Have you <u>got</u> the newspaper? The past participle of the verb “to get” is <u>got</u> . Collective nouns (= group of people like: committee, team, government...etc) <u>can be either singular or plural</u> .