



# UK Terminology Tips

# British & American English

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# Harry Potter Places

## UK Terminology Tips: British and American English

For a more extensive list, see Rick Steves' **British-Yankee Vocabulary**

<http://www.ricksteves.com/plan/destinations/britain/brityan.htm>

### Other Resources

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_words\\_having\\_different\\_meanings\\_in\\_British\\_and\\_American\\_English](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_words_having_different_meanings_in_British_and_American_English)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_British\\_words\\_not\\_widely\\_used\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_British_words_not_widely_used_in_the_United_States)

Word	UK Meaning	US Equivalent or Consideration
banger	sausage	link sausage
bap	small bread roll	bun or sandwich roll
bin	a waste container; or to throw away	trash can
biscuit	baked sweet or savoury cake-like item (colloquially <i>bikkies</i> for sweet biscuits)	cookie (sweet biscuit), or cracker (savoury biscuit)
bonnet	hinged cover over the engine of a car	hood
boot	storage compartment of a car	trunk
broolly	umbrella	
bum bag	a bag worn on a strap around the waist, resting on the buttocks	fanny pack [See Fanny!]
cafetière	device for making coffee (sometimes "cafeteria")	French press, press pot, coffee press, coffee plunger
caravan	travel trailer	mobile home, camper, or RV (recreational vehicle)
chemist	pharmacy	drugstore
chips	long cuts of deep fried potato	French fries
cider	an <i>alcoholic</i> drink derived from apples	hard cider
clingfilm	thin plastic film for wrapping food	plastic wrap, Saran wrap
closet	a room containing a flush toilet; water closet	bathroom or restroom
concession	reduction in price (discount) for a certain category of persons, such as children, seniors or students	discount ticket (not a <i>souvenir shop</i> )
cotton bud	wad of cotton fixed to a small stick, used for cleaning	cotton swab, Q-Tip
cracker	small parcel that makes an explosive report when pulled from both ends, traditionally pulled at Christmas	thin, hard, unsweetened biscuit (formerly chiefly US, now common in UK)
crisps	salted, deep-fat-fried potato slices	potato chips
dual carriageway	two lanes of opposing traffic separated by a median	divided highway
faggot	seasoned meat shaped into balls and baked; often served cold	meat ball

Word	UK Meaning	US Equivalent or Consideration
fanny	vulgar slang reference to female genitalia	Avoid using this term while in the UK! To make a slang reference to <i>buttocks</i> , use bum, or butt, or the like.
fortnight	a period of 14 days (and nights)	two weeks
half-	thirty minutes past the hour, as in "half-eight"	half past the hour, as in "eight-thirty"
high street	primary business and shopping street	main street
hole-in-the-wall	automated teller machine, cash machine	ATM
hood	folding fabric top on a convertible car	convertible top
hump	mound built into a road to slow down vehicles	speed bump
jumper	a knitted upper body garment	sweater
knickers	women's or men's underwear	panties or briefs
knock up	to awaken or summon by knocking, such as knocking on a door	(does not mean <i>to impregnate</i> )
lay by	roadside parking or rest area for drivers	rest area
lift	platform or cage that travels vertically between floors in a building	elevator
lolly	frozen, water-based dessert on a stick	popsicle
loo	a room containing a toilet	bathroom, restroom
Mackintosh	raincoat (often shortened to <i>Mac</i> )	(some consider <i>raincoat</i> to mean <i>condom</i> )
mad	eccentric	(does not mean <i>angry</i> )
mobile	mobile phone	cell phone
motorway	a major highway with multiple lanes of opposing traffic separated by a median	freeway, expressway, interstate highway, interstate
napkin	(1) diaper <i>or</i> sanitary pad; (2) a piece of material used to protect garments from spilled food	
pants	men's underwear, knickers	(not <i>trousers</i> )
paracetamol	a widely available drug for treatment of headaches, fever, minor aches and pains	acetaminophen, Tylenol
pecker	courage, pluck	(not slang for <i>penis</i> )
peckish	slightly hungry, wanting a snack	(not <i>irritable</i> )
Pensioner	a retired individual	Senior Citizen
pissed	intoxicated, drunk	(not <i>angry</i> , or <i>irritated</i> )
plaster	an adhesive bandage placed on a minor cut or scrape	Band-Aid
pudding	(1) dessert course of a meal; (2) used in the name of some savoury dishes (black pudding, pease pudding)	(1) any desert, whether cake, fruit, ice cream, etc. (2) similar to turkey stuffing and the like.

Word	UK Meaning	US Equivalent or Consideration
queue	a group of persons waiting for something, lined-up in order of arrival	line
restroom	a room for staff to take their breaks in	break room
return ticket	round-trip ticket	
rubber	pencil eraser	(not <i>condom</i> )
rubbish	(1) garbage; (2) something that is bad or worthless	(1) trash; (2) something disliked
Sellotape	from Cellophane, transparent adhesive tape	Scotch tape
single ticket	one-way ticket	
subway	pedestrian underpass	(not <i>underground railway</i> )
toilet	room containing a toilet	restroom
torch	handheld device that emits light	flashlight
trainer	a padded sport shoe	sneaker or tennis shoe
trunk	primary road	(not the storage compartment of a car)
tube	the London subterranean railway system	(not used for other city's subway systems)
underground	subterranean railway system	subway
Water Closet (WC)	a room containing a toilet	bathroom, restroom
windscreen	the glass across the front of a vehicle	windshield
wing	panel of a car that encloses the wheel area	fender
zebra (zebra crossing)	a pedestrian crossing marked by white stripes	pronounced ZEB-rah, not ZEE-brah

## FLOOR NUMBERING in the UK & Europe

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Storey>

In the US, the “first floor” is another name for the ground floor. But, in Britain—as well as most of continental Europe—the first floor refers to the first floor *above* the ground floor.

British Convention	American Convention
Ground floor	Ground or 1st floor
1st floor	2nd floor
2nd floor	3rd floor
3rd floor	4th floor— And so on ...