

AMERICAN GUIDE: SPEAKING ENGLISH IN ENGLAND

Vocabulary of Accommodation and Housing



Blind/Roller Blind	shade (window)
Bungalow	one story house
Bureau	writing desk with front flap
Camp bed	a cot
Char	slang for house cleaner
Cooker	stove
Cot	baby crib
Council house or flat	housing provided by the local council or local government
Cupboard	closet
Curtains	drapes
Detached house	a house standing without being jointed to another
D.I.Y.	do it yourself, home improvement
Drain	sewer pipe
Duvet	comforter
En suite	a bedroom with a private toilet and private bathing facilities
Estate agent	real estate agent
First floor	second floor
Fitted carpet	wall to wall carpets
Flat	apartment
Ground floor	first floor
Hob	stove top
Homely	cozy, comfortable (not ugly)
Hoover	vacuum
Immersion heater	water heater
Larder	pantry
Let, to	rent or lease
Lounge	sitting room
Nets/net curtains	sheer curtain

Maisonette	a duplex apartment, often part of the house
Mews	an old alley, perhaps originally containing a row of stables, which now may be very quaint and fashionable.
Point/powerpoint	electrical outlet/socket
Post code	zip code
Semi-detached	a house that is attached to another house on one side but not on the other, duplex
Service flat	an apartment which is cleaned and serviced as part of rental agreement
Settee	love seat
Sideboard	hutch
Spanner	monkey wrench
Sponge bag	toilet kit
Steps	ladder
Tap	faucet
Terrace	row of joined houses
Underlay	rug pad
Wardrobe	closet for clothes
Zedbed	portable foldaway bed

Vocabulary for using the phone

999-	emergency number equivalent to 911 in America
Call box	telephone booth
Directory inquiries	telephone information
Engaged	busy
Ex-directory	unlisted telephone number
Reverse charge call	collect call
Ring off	to end a telephone conversation
Ring up	to call
Through	connected
Trunk call	long distance call



Vocabulary for food and drink



Food

Aubergine	eggplant
Banger	small, bland, brown sausage
Bap	hamburger bun
Bill	check (restaurant)
Biscuit	cookie or cracker
Black pudding	a sausage made from oatmeal, herbs, and blood
Black treacle	molasses
Braising steak	pot roast
Broad bean	Lima bean
Bubble and squeak	an odd name for an odd concoction, a mixture of brussels sprouts or cabbage mixed with onions and potatoes and rolled into balls, which are covered with bread, crumbs.
Candy floss	cotton candy
Chicory	endive
Chips	french-fries
Clotted cream	a super thick cream
Cold supper	cold meat and green salad served late, usually between 9 and 11 p.m.
Corn	a word for all grains
Cornet	cone (ice cream cone)
Cornish pasties	pastry filled with minced meat, onions, and potatoes
Courgettes	zucchini
Crisps	potato chips
Crumpet	Flat yeast breads that are quite close to what Americans call "English muffins"
Fish-fingers	fish-sticks
Flan	pie that has no top on it
Gammon	ham
Gateau	French word for cake
Green	the term for green vegetables, but it usually means peas
Green pepper	bell pepper
Grill	broil
Haggis	pudding made from the heart, liver, and entrails of sheep, with suet, onions and oatmeal; the

Ice lolly	Popsicle
Icing sugar	powdered sugar
Jam	jelly
Jelly	jell-o
Joint	a large piece of meat for roasting
Kedgeree	breakfast dish of fish, rice, and eggs
Kipper	smoked herring
Lancashire hot pot	lamb stew with a rice sauce and numerous ingredients.
Liver sausage	liverwurst
Mange tout	snow peas
Marrow	similar to squash
Mash (slang)	mashed potato
Minced meat or mince	hamburger meat
Mincemeat	sweet pie filling
Pancake	crepe
Pasty	small savory pie
Plaice	a flat European fish that resembles and tastes like flounder
Porridge	oatmeal
Pudding	general term for dessert
Rasher of bacon	slice
Runner bean	string bean
Salt beef	corned beef
Satsuma	seedless tangerine
Scone	a baked item made from a soft raised flour-and-egg mixture. It is very popular
Scotch egg	a hard-boiled egg covered with fried sausage meat that is served cold.



Semolina	cream of wheat
Shepherd's pie	ground meat and onions covered with mashed potatoes
Sorbet	sherbet
Sponge finger (cake)	ladyfinger
Starters	appetizers or first course
Stone (fruit)	pit
Sultana	a white raisin
Sweets	candy
Swiss roll	jelly roll
Tin	can
Toad in the hole	sausage in batter
Treacle	a very sweet liquid, like molasses, which is poured over a dessert
Underdone (meat)	rare



Drink

Bitter	bitter beer, heavier and thicker than American beer
Char	slang for a drink of tea
Cider	strong cider beer
Cream tea	tea with scone served with thick cream along with jam and butter
Cuppa	slang for a cup of tea
Free house	pub not belonging to a brewery
Half, a	half pint of beer
High tea	a light dinner served from 5 to 5:30 p.m.
Jar	slang for a pint of beer
Jug	pitcher
Lager	similar to light ale in America
Lager and lime	a mild drink
Martini	vermouth
Pint	a pint of beer, filling a glass that is just a little larger than an American pin
Shandy	drink of beer and lemonade

Spirits	liquor
Stout	a heavy, dark, sweet beer
White coffee	coffee with milk
White tea	tea with milk
Whiskey	scotch

Vocabulary of the road and transportation

A to zed	detailed town map
Black ice	road ice (invisible)
Bobby	policeman
Bonnet	the hood of the car
Boot	the trunk of the car
Cab/taxi rank	taxi stand
Caravan	trailer
Car park	parking lot
Cats eyes	road reflectors
Coach	bus
Cul-de-sac	dead end road
Diversion	detour
Divider	the line of strip in the middle of the road
	dividing traffic
Dual carriageway	divided highway
Dynamo	generator
Estate car	station wagon
Gallon	46.42 cubic inches larger than American gallon
	transmission
Gearbox	gear shift
Gear lever	yield
Give way	exit
Junction	curb
Kerb (pavement)	learner driver plates on a car
"L" plates	light
Lamp	rest area on road side
Lay-by	track
Line, railway	truck
Lorry	stick shift
Manual gears	Ministry of Transport
M.O.T.	to drive a vehicle
Motor	



Motor way	freeway
Number plate	license plate
Overtake (car)	pass
Panda car	small police car
Pavement	sidewalk
Petrol	gas or gasoline
Pelican crossing	pedestrian crossing
Ring road	road around town
Roundabout	traffic circle
Saloon car	sedan car
Silencer	muffler
Subway	pedestrian underpass
Spanner	wrench
Torch	flashlight
Traffic warden	metermaid
Tube, the	subway
Underground, the	subway
Verge	shoulder (highway)
Wing	fender
Windscreen	windshield
Zebra crossing	pedestrian crossing
Cultural terms	
Athlete	refer to someone in track and field in Britain
Barrister	a lawyer who pleads cases in court, trial lawyer
Boxing day	a holiday on the day after Christmas (December 26)
Britain	England, Scotland, and Wales.
Brit	a slang abbreviation for a British person
British	person or phenomenon from England, Scotland or Wales.
Circus	a place where important streets intersect ex. Piccadilly Circus
Cockney	noun or adjective refers to working class east London culture and the accent
Continent	the rest of Europe
Corporation	local government
Dame	a woman who has been knighted
Dates	British: day/month/year
Dress circle (theater)	first balcony
East end	the working class, cockney, part of London
Father Christmas	Santa Claus
Fleet street	Old Street of London,

Football	known for its journalism
Gallery (theater)	soccer
Guy Fawkes night	balcony
	a carnival night of bonfires and fireworks on November 5
Gaol	pronounced exactly like and means the same as "jail"
Holiday	vacation
Home office	the government department responsible for law and order, domestic affairs, and immigration
Hustings	election meetings
Limited company	a corporation, abbreviated as ltd.
Midlands	the middle of the country, farthest from the sea
M.P.	member of congress
Navvy	an unskilled day laborer. Originally navvies were canal and railroad builders.
Nip	sneak away
Number ten	number 10 Downing Street, the residence of the Prime Minister
P.m.	prime minister
Poppy day	veterans day
Provinces	all of England outside of London
Redundancy pay	severance pay
Redundant	unemployed
Rugby	a game somewhat like American football, but played without protective padding
Scotland yard	the headquarters for London's metropolitan police
Scottish	a person from Scotland



Send down	expel or suspend a person from a university
Soho	district in central London
Solicitor	legal professionals
Stalls	theater seats on the ground floor
Stand for office	political terms for run for the office
Supporters	sports term for "fans"
The (old) bill	slang for the police
T.U.C.	Trades Union Congress, an organization of Britain's powerful unions
Upper circle (theater)	first balcony
Wellies/Wellingtons	rubber or gum boots
West Country	the southwestern part of England, Cornwall and Devon
West end	fashionable and rich part of London
White spirit	alcohol (not for drinking)
Whitehall	government offices



Financial term

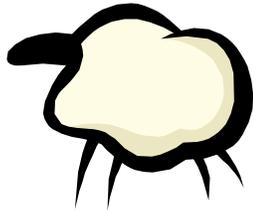
"P"	pence
Billfold	wallet
Building society	saving & loan
Cashier	teller
Cheques	checks
Current account	checking account
Deposit account	saving account
Dole	welfare payments (usually to unemployed persons)
Dosh	money
Hire purchase	time payment
Premium bonds	government lottery bond
Quid	slang for a pound (£)
Rates	property and water taxes
Reckon	means to figure or calculate
Tener	10 pound bank note
Third party insurance	liability insurance
Unit Trust	mutual fund
V.A.T.	value added tax, 17.5%

Very practical terms

Admiralty	navy department
Advert	advertisement or commercial
Aerial	antenna
Agricultural show	state or country fair
Alsatian	a German shepherd dog
American football	football
Autumn	fall
Au pair	foreign girl who lives as one of the family and helps with the children
Balaclava	woolen hat which can be pulled over the face for additional protection
Bank holiday	a day when the banks are closed along with almost everything else
Barrack	to demonstrate noisily in public
Bash	to hit (slang)
Bath	bathtub
Bathe	go for a swim, not to have a bath. By the way, America "take" a bath, while British people "have" them.
Baths	swimming pool
Belt up	slang for shut up
Bird	slang for girl
Biro	a ball point pen
Book (v.)	To reserve
Boot sale	car trunk sale
Bottom drawer	hope chest
Braces	retainer (teeth)
Break (school)	recess
Caretaker	janitor
Cheerio	goodbye
Chemist	a drug store



Chit	any piece of paper
Cinema	movie theater
Class (school)	grade
Cling film	plastic wrap
Cloakroom	coat room, checkroom, or restroom



Clothespeg	clothespin
Cot	a bed for a small child
Cotton	thread
Cotton wool	cotton balls/batting
Court shoe	pump
Cracker	a Christmas novelty
Cutlery	silverware
Day-return ticket	round trip ticket
Deaf aid	hearing aid
Diamante	rhinestone
Diary	calendar
Dinner jacket	tuxedo
Draper	dry goods store
Draughts (game)	checkers
Drawing pin	thumb tack
Dressing gown	bathrobe
Dummy	pacifier
Dustbin	trash bin
Dustman	garbage collector
Earth/Earthwire	ground/groundwire
Eiderdown	comforter
Elastic band	rubber band
Elastoplast	band-aid
Emulsion	type of paint
Ex-services	veteran
Fancy dress	costume
Film	movie
Flannel	face cloth
Flatties	flat shoes
Flex	electric cord
Fly-over	over-pass
Fortnight	two weeks
Form (school)	grade
Fruit machine	slot machine
Full stop	period
Fun fair	carnival
Garden	yard
Gents	slang for male restroom
Geordie	native of Newcastle

Get down	get off
Glass	crystal
Gongs	slang for medals
Goose pimples	goose bumps
Green belt	no building zone
Green fingers	green thumb
Greengrocer	shops that sell fruits and vegetable

Gymkhana	local horse riding show
Gym shoes	sneakers
Haberdashery	notions
Hairpin/hair grip	bobbie pin
Half fare	child's fare
Handbag	purse
Handmaster/mistress	school principal
Hard cheese	slang for tough luck
Hat trick	a triple triumph
Have a bash	slang for have a try
Hessian	burlap
High street	main street
High tea	a late afternoon meal
Hire	rent
Houseman	intern
Hundredweight	112lbs weight
Interflora	flowers by telephone
Interval	intermission
In-train	in progress
Inverted commas	quotation marks
Ironmonger	hardware store
Jab	injection
Jersey	sweater
Jumble sale	a garage sale
Jumper	sweater
Kiosk	news stand or telephone box
Kit	equipment
Lable	tag
Lacquer	hair spray
Ladder, stocking	run
Landlord (pub)	owner or manager of pub



Lavatory	toilet or low
Lead	leash
Leader (newspaper)	editorial
Letterbox	mail box
Lift	elevator
Limited company	incorporated company
Lip balm	chap stick
Loch	Scottish lake
Lounge suit	business suit
Lodger	roomer
Loo	toilet
Mac	mackintosh or raincoat
Majority (voting)	plurality
Magistrate	justice of the peace
Mancunian	native of Manchester
Mark (school)	grade
Match	game
Mean	tight fisted, stingy
Megaphone	loud hailer
Meths	denatured alcohol
Moor	high open land
Moped	small, low powered motorbike
Muffler	woolen scarf for winter
Muslin	cheesecloth
Nannie	children's nurse
Nanny/nan	grandmother
Newsagents	newsstand
Nil	zero
Noticeboard	bulletin board
Nought	zero
Noughts & crosses	tic tac toe
Nylons	stockings
Off license	liquor store
Off the peg	ready to wear
Out of bounds	off limits
Over gloves	potholder
Overleaf	reverse side of the page
Oxbridge	Oxford & Cambridge university
Pack of card	deck of cards
Packed lunch	sack or brown bag lunch
Pantomime	Christmas theatrical show
Paraffin	kerosene
Paraffin wax	paraffin
Parcel	package
P.C.	police constable, used before the name of the policeman
Pelmet	valance
Pillar box	mailbox
Pinafore dress	jumper
Plait	braid
Plaster	a band-aid

Plimsolls	sneakers
Plus-fours	knickers
Poppers	snaps
Porridge	slang for time in prison
Post	mail
Postman	mailman
Postponement	rain-check
Pram	baby carriage
Press studs	snaps
Public convenience	outdoor toilet
Public school	private school
Push-chair	stroller
Pylon	high tension tower
Quay	wharf/pier
Queue	means to stand in line, from French word for tail
Reel	spool
Register office	marriage office
Reception (hotel)	front desk
Return ticket	round-trip ticket
Rubbish	trash
Rucksack	backpack
Sellotape	America's scotch tape
Serviette	table napkin
Scent	perfume
Scrubber	slang for a person with very poor standards of behavior
Sideboards (hair)	sideburns
Single ticket	a one-way ticket
Sister (hospital)	head nurse on a ward
Skip	dumpster
Skipping rope	jump robe



Skirting board	base board	Teat (baby's bottle)	nipple
Sledge/toboggan	sled	Telly	slang for television
Smalls	slang for underwear	Term (school)	semester
Smart	means "stylish"	Theater (hospital)	operating room
Sorry	The all-purpose word for an apology. It needs to be inserted sharply and crisply. The American "excuse me" is not a good substitute, because British people tend to use it when they want someone to get out of the way.	Tick	check mark
	eye glasses	Timetable	schedule
Specs	green onion	Tip	dump (refuse)
Spring onion	faculty	Ton	2,240 pounds in Britain
Staff (academic)	public school	Torch	flashlight
State school	a measurement of weight equals 14 pounds	Trainers	any sport shoes with treads
Stone	medical doctor's office	Transistor	portable radio
	rubbing alcohol	Trousers	pants
Surgery	garter belt	Under graduates	university/college students
Surgical spirit	garters	Utility	means something that is simple and cheap. The American term is "generic".
Suspender belt	slang for "thank you"	Vacuum flask	thermos
Suspenders	submit for discussion	Washing up	doing the dishes
Ta	ping pong	Washing up liquid	dishwashing liquid
Table, to	pollywogs	Wine merchant	liquor store
Table tennis		Winge	slang, means to complain
Tadpole		Wire	telegram
		Wireless	audio
		Woolly	sweater
		Zed	"z"

