

Standard English vs. Non-standard English

Global English, SS 2010

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Structure

1. Standard English

A. Vocabulary

B. Grammar

C. Spelling

D. Pronunciation

E. Pragmatics

2. Conclusion

Standard English / Non-standard English

(Jenkins 2003, ch. A5)

- **Standard English:**

- avoids non-standard grammar, slang + swear words
- associated with better education + middle class manners
- usually used in print
- taught in school

- **Non-standard English:**

- includes types of English which do not conform to the vocabulary + grammar of StE
- StE is part of GenE

Standard English / Non-standard English

Four criteria for Standard English

(Jenkins 2003 : 71)

1. Vocabulary

2. Grammar

3. Spelling

4. Pronunciation

Vocabulary

(Jenkins 2003 : 71-75)



Vocabulary

Same concept – different expression

- there is some vocabulary in AmE and BrE which is different
- > ex.: almost all vocabulary referring to the *car* and *railway industry* varies

Vocabulary

Same concept – different expression

- the use of a BrE word in AmE (and vice versa) is recognised in the same way as a borrowed word from any other language
 - > ex.: usage of *mate* or *amigo* in AmE
 - this can lead to confusion!

Vocabulary

Same concept – different expression

What do you think – to which variety (BrE / AmE)
do the following expressions belong?

Driving license

Driver's license

Vocabulary

Same concept – different expression

What do you think – to which variety (BrE / AmE)
do the following expressions belong?

BrE - Driving license

AmE - Driver's license

Vocabulary

Same concept – different expression

What do you think – to which variety (BrE / AmE)
do the following expressions belong?

faucet
tap

Vocabulary

Same concept – different expression

What do you think – to which variety (BrE / AmE)
do the following expressions belong?

BrE – tap

AmE – faucet

Vocabulary

Same concept – different expression

What do you think – to which variety (BrE / AmE)
do the following expressions belong?

grade
form

Vocabulary

Same concept – different expression

What do you think – to which variety (BrE / AmE)
do the following expressions belong?

BrE - form

AmE - grade

Vocabulary

Same concept – different expression

What do you think – to which variety (BrE / AmE)
do the following expressions belong?

She read Biology at Cambridge.
She majored in Biology at Harvard.

Vocabulary

Same concept – different expression

What do you think – to which variety (BrE / AmE) do the following expressions belong?

BrE - *She read Biology at Cambridge.*

AmE - *She majored in Biology at Harvard.*

Vocabulary

Quiz!

Same word – different meaning

pants

Vocabulary

Quiz!

Same word – different meaning

pants

BrE: *underwear*
AmE: *trousers*

Vocabulary

Quiz!

Same word – different meaning

fag

Vocabulary

Quiz!

Same word – different meaning

fag

BrE: *cigarette*

AmE: *highly offensive term for a homosexual male*

Vocabulary

Quiz!

Same word – different meaning

pavement

Vocabulary

Quiz!

Same word – different meaning

pavement

BrE: *footpath*

AmE: *road surface* (*sidewalk* in some parts of the
US)

Vocabulary

Quiz!

Same word – different meaning

suspender

Vocabulary

Quiz!

Same word – different meaning

suspender

BrE: *short, elastic fastening for stockings*

AmE: *two elastic straps to hold up trousers*

Vocabulary

Same word – additional meaning (in one variety)

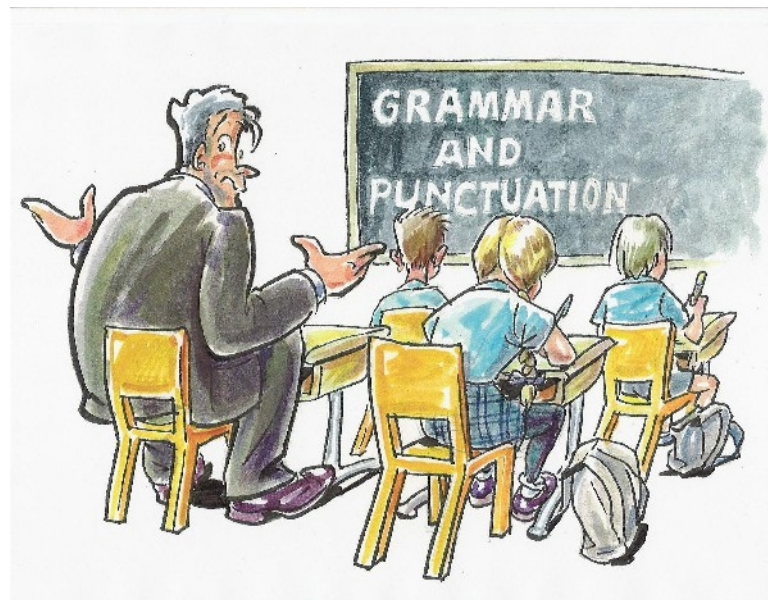
- *bathroom* in general: room with shower, toilet & sink -> AmE: *toilet*
- *school* in general: institution of education at elementary level -> AmE: *all institutions of education, including universities*
- *smart* in general: intelligent -> BrE: *well-groomed*

Vocabulary

Same word – difference in style

- BrE: *autumn* is used in every register
- AmE: *autumn* is more commonly in literary context

Grammar



Grammar

(Jenkins 2003 : 71)

- **Nouns**

- greater use of certain noun endings
->AmE: <-ee> *retiree, draftee*, <ster>
ex. “*teamster*”, “*gamester*”
- difference in derivational ending
-> AmE: *candidature* vs. BrE:
candidacy
- greater tendency to use verbs as nouns in AmE
-> *To run down (the run-down); To be shut in (a shut-in); To try out (the try-out)*

- **Verbs**

- morphology, differences in past and participle endings
-> BrE: *dived, got* vs. AmE: *dove, gotten*
- auxiliaries, use of *epistemic must* :
-> BrE: *can't* vs. AmE: *must not* -> “*you can't go there!*” vs. “*you must not go there!*”

Grammar

(Jenkins 2003 : 71)

- **Adjectives**

- the comparative adjective “*different*” is followed by
->AmE: *than* vs. BrE: *from/to*
- “*this one is different than/ from...*”

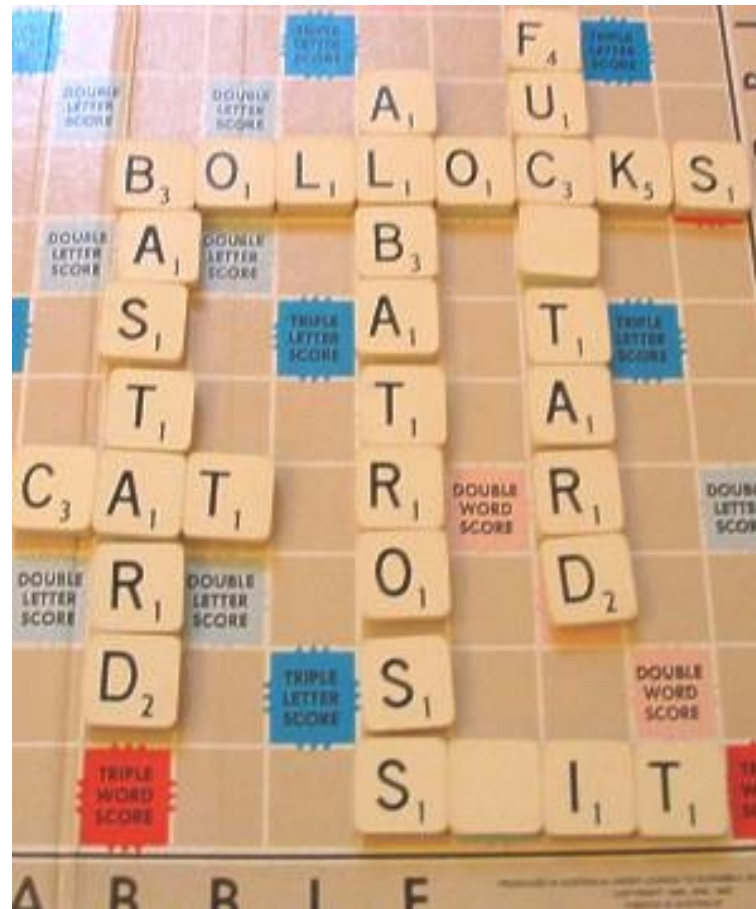
- **Adverbs**

- yet and already cannot occur with the simple past tense in BrE but in AmE
-> BrE: would use present perfect tense (*I haven't bought one, yet*) vs.
AmE: *I didn't buy one, yet*

- **Prepositions**

- a few prepositions differ in form
-> BrE: *I put it behind the shed* vs.
AmE: *I put it in back of the shed*
- differences in prepositions in expressions of time
-> BrE: *I haven't seen him for ages* vs.
AmE: *I haven't seen him in ages.*
- clock time
-> BrE: *20 to 3, 5 past 8* vs. AmE: *20 of/ till 3, 5 after 8*
- different uses of in + on
-> BrE: *to live in a street. To be in a sale* vs. AmE: *to be on a street. To be on sale.*

Spelling



Spelling

Spelling

(A short history of English Spelling:

<http://www.englishspellingproblems.co.uk/html/history.html>)

AmE - BrE

analyze – analyse

center – centre

check – cheque

color – colour

defense – defence

enroll – enrol

fulfill - fulfil

jewelry – jewellery

liter – litre

meter – metre

pajama – pyjama

theater – theatre

tire - tyre

Pronunciation



Pronunciation

Click

Pronunciation

“Accent refers pronunciation only. (...) There are a large number of standard accents, and they are usually regionally based. These include:

RP (England), SSE (Scotland), GenAm (N. America), General Australian”

(S. Gramley 2008 in Gramley & Gramley 2008 : 271)

Pronunciation

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RP (England), SSE (Scotland), GenAm (N. America), General Australian”

(Gramley & Gramley 2008 : 271)

- (Mid) Ulster English
 - Hiberno-English

Pronunciation

- differences in pronunciation are due to:

- class
- ethnicity
- gender
 - age
- region

Differences

“motor”

RP:

AmE:

SSE:

AusE

Ulster:

Hiberno:

Differences

“motor”

RP:

/məʊtə/

AmE:

/moʊdər/

SSE:

/mo:tər/

AusE:

/mʌʊdə/

Ulster:

/mo:təɹ/

Hiberno:

/moʊtər/

Pragmatics

What is meant by pragmatics?

Pragmatics

- *What's de craig?*
- *How's things?*
- *What's up, mate?*
- *How do you do?*
 - *What's up?*
 - *You're alright?*
 - *How is it goin'?*
 - *How are you?*

Pragmatics

Click

Process of Standardization

Process of Standardization

Selection

- most critical phase in standardizing process
- refers to the choice of one variety instead of another
- it could also involve selection of features from several varieties or from a language variety which has no native speakers

Process of Standardization

Codification

- the chosen variety has to be fixed in grammar books and dictionaries

Process of Standardization

Elaboration of function

- standard forms have to be capable of performing a wide range of institutional and literary functions

Process of Standardization

Acceptance

- the relevant population has to accept the selected variety as their standard : national language

Conclusion

- Non-standard English is everything that does not belong to Standard English, but:

Conclusion

- Non-standard English is everything that does not belong to Standard English, but:
 - Standard English is not easy to identify

Sources

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