

# English Pronunciation: British vs American English

Level A2 · Lesson 2

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ / 44

## Language Focus: Two Accents, Two Sounds

British English and American English use mostly the same words and grammar, but they often **sound** quite different. Here are the two biggest differences.

| Feature                       | American English                      | British English                         |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| The "r" after a vowel         | Pronounced clearly: car, work, better | Usually silent: ca(r), wo(r)k, bette(r) |
| The "a" in dance, bath, class | Short, flat sound (like "cat")        | Long, open sound (like "ah")            |

**Tip:** Neither accent is "correct" — they're just different. Being able to recognise both helps you understand more speakers and choose the style you prefer.

## Bonus: some words are just different

A few common words are pronounced completely differently in each accent, regardless of any general rule: **schedule**, **tomato**, **vitamin**, **garage**, **herb**. Worth learning individually if you notice them!

### Exercise 1: True or False (8 points)

1. In American English, you usually hear the "r" sound after a vowel, like in "world". True / False
2. In British English, "learn" usually has a clear "r" sound at the end. True / False
3. In British English, "earth" usually has a silent "r". True / False
4. In American English, "verb" usually has a silent "r". True / False
5. In British English, "slant" is usually pronounced with a short, flat "a" sound. True / False
6. In American English, "grasp" usually has a short, flat "a" sound. True / False
7. In American English, "gasps" usually has a long, open "ah" sound. True / False
8. In British English, "mask" usually has a long, open "ah" sound. True / False

### Exercise 2: Multiple Choice (8 points)

1. Which accent clearly pronounces the "r" in "near"? a) British b) American
2. Which accent usually drops the "r" sound in "door"? a) American b) British
3. Which accent pronounces the "r" at the end of "forty"? a) British b) American
4. Which accent usually drops the "r" sound in "short"? a) American b) British
5. Which accent says "passport" with a short "a", like in "cat"? a) British b) American
6. Which accent says "contrast" with a long, open "ah" sound? a) American b) British
7. Which accent says "cast" with a short, flat "a" sound? a) British b) American
8. Which accent says "blast" with a long "ah" sound? a) American b) British

### Exercise 3: Matching (8 points)

Say each word aloud in both accents if you can. Write **a** or **b** to show which accent is being demonstrated.

**a)** American     **b)** British

| Word       | Accent (a or b) |
|------------|-----------------|
| 1. morning | _____           |
| 2. mast    | _____           |
| 3. wonder  | _____           |
| 4. vast    | _____           |
| 5. thunder | _____           |
| 6. nasty   | _____           |
| 7. murder  | _____           |
| 8. raft    | _____           |

### Exercise 4: Word Sort (12 points)

Say each word aloud in both accents (or ask your teacher to say it) before deciding. Write each word in the box for the rule it demonstrates: daughter, north, curl, church, care, four, shaft, half, grass, craft, draft, aunt.

| R Rule | A Rule |
|--------|--------|
|        |        |

### Exercise 5: Gap Fill (8 points)

Say each word aloud in both accents (or ask your teacher to say it) before answering. Write "R" or "A" to show which rule the word demonstrates.

1. "floor" → \_\_\_\_\_ Rule

2. "pass" → \_\_\_\_\_ Rule

3. "sport" → \_\_\_\_\_ Rule

4. "fast" → \_\_\_\_\_ Rule

5. "border" → \_\_\_\_\_ Rule

6. "sample" → \_\_\_\_\_ Rule

7. "powder" → \_\_\_\_\_ Rule

8. "basket" → \_\_\_\_\_ Rule

## English Pronunciation: British vs American English — A2 — Lesson 2

### Exercise 1: True or False — Answers

1. In American English, you usually hear the "r" sound after a vowel, like in "world". — **True**
2. In British English, "learn" usually has a clear "r" sound at the end. — **False**
3. In British English, "earth" usually has a silent "r". — **True**
4. In American English, "verb" usually has a silent "r". — **False**
5. In British English, "slant" is usually pronounced with a short, flat "a" sound. — **False**
6. In American English, "grasp" usually has a short, flat "a" sound. — **True**
7. In American English, "gasps" usually has a long, open "ah" sound. — **False**
8. In British English, "mask" usually has a long, open "ah" sound. — **True**

### Exercise 2: Multiple Choice — Answers

1. Which accent clearly pronounces the "r" in "near"? — correct answer: **b) American**
2. Which accent usually drops the "r" sound in "door"? — correct answer: **b) British**
3. Which accent pronounces the "r" at the end of "forty"? — correct answer: **b) American**
4. Which accent usually drops the "r" sound in "short"? — correct answer: **b) British**
5. Which accent says "passport" with a short "a", like in "cat"? — correct answer: **b) American**
6. Which accent says "contrast" with a long, open "ah" sound? — correct answer: **b) British**
7. Which accent says "cast" with a short, flat "a" sound? — correct answer: **b) American**
8. Which accent says "blast" with a long "ah" sound? — correct answer: **b) British**

### Exercise 3: Matching — Answers

morning — **a) American**

mast — **b) British**

wonder — **a) American**

vast — **b) British**

thunder — **a) American**

nasty — **b) British**

murder — **a) American**

raft — **b) British**

### **Exercise 4: Word Sort — Answers**

**R Rule:** daughter, north, curl, church, care, four

**A Rule:** shaft, half, grass, craft, draft, aunt

### **Exercise 5: Gap Fill — Answers**

1. floor — **R Rule**

2. pass — **A Rule**

3. sport — **R Rule**

4. fast — **A Rule**

5. border — **R Rule**

6. sample — **A Rule**

7. powder — **R Rule**

8. basket — **A Rule**