

English Pronunciation: British vs American English

Level A2 · Lesson 3

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 44

Language Focus: Two More Sound Differences

In earlier lessons you learned about the "r" and "a" differences. Here are two more common differences between British and American English.

Feature	American English	British English
The "t" between vowels	Often softens to a quick "d"-like sound	Stays a clear "t" sound
The "o" in hot, stop, box	Open sound, closer to "ah"	Short, rounded sound

Tip: The soft "t" (called a "flap") is one of the clearest signs of an American accent — listen for it in words like "water", "better", and "city". 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. "pretty" has a soft, quick "d"-like sound in American English. True / False
2. "bottle" has a clear "t" sound in American English. True / False
3. "title" has a clear "t" sound in British English. True / False
4. "metal" has a soft "d"-like sound in British English. True / False
5. "not" has a short, rounded "o" sound in American English. True / False
6. "job" has an open, "ah"-like sound in American English. True / False
7. "lock" has an open, "ah"-like sound in British English. True / False
8. "spot" has a short, rounded "o" sound in British English. True / False

Exercise 2: Multiple Choice (8 points)

1. Which accent softens the "t" to a quick "d" sound in "petal"? a) British b) American
2. Which accent uses a short, rounded "o" sound in "shop"? a) American b) British
3. Which accent softens the "t" to a quick "d" sound in "motto"? a) British b) American
4. Which accent uses a short, rounded "o" sound in "clock"? a) American b) British
5. Which accent softens the "t" to a quick "d" sound in "photo"? a) British b) American
6. Which accent uses a short, rounded "o" sound in "top"? a) American b) British
7. Which accent softens the "t" to a quick "d" sound in "data"? a) British b) American
8. Which accent uses a short, rounded "o" sound in "rock"? 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. kitty	_____
2. sock	_____
3. pity	_____
4. block	_____
5. item	_____
6. drop	_____
7. atom	_____
8. pot	_____

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: water, little, matter, cattle, rattle, settle, dot, cop, mop, hop, chop, cot.

T Rule	O Rule

Exercise 5: Gap Fill (8 points)

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

1. "satin" → _____ Rule
2. "plot" → _____ Rule
3. "mutton" → _____ Rule
4. "fox" → _____ Rule
5. "written" → _____ Rule
6. "ox" → _____ Rule
7. "kitten" → _____ Rule
8. "nod" → _____ Rule

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Exercise 1: True or False — Answers

1. "pretty" has a soft, quick "d"-like sound in American English. — **True**
2. "bottle" has a clear "t" sound in American English. — **False**
3. "title" has a clear "t" sound in British English. — **True**
4. "metal" has a soft "d"-like sound in British English. — **False**
5. "not" has a short, rounded "o" sound in American English. — **False**
6. "job" has an open, "ah"-like sound in American English. — **True**
7. "lock" has an open, "ah"-like sound in British English. — **False**
8. "spot" has a short, rounded "o" sound in British English. — **True**

Exercise 2: Multiple Choice — Answers

1. Which accent softens the "t" to a quick "d" sound in "petal"? — correct answer: **b) American**
2. Which accent uses a short, rounded "o" sound in "shop"? — correct answer: **b) British**
3. Which accent softens the "t" to a quick "d" sound in "motto"? — correct answer: **b) American**
4. Which accent uses a short, rounded "o" sound in "clock"? — correct answer: **b) British**
5. Which accent softens the "t" to a quick "d" sound in "photo"? — correct answer: **b) American**
6. Which accent uses a short, rounded "o" sound in "top"? — correct answer: **b) British**
7. Which accent softens the "t" to a quick "d" sound in "data"? — correct answer: **b) American**
8. Which accent uses a short, rounded "o" sound in "rock"? — correct answer: **b) British**

Exercise 3: Matching — Answers

kitty — **a) American**

sock — **b) British**

pity — **a) American**

block — **b) British**

item — **a) American**

drop — **b) British**

atom — **a) American**

pot — **b) British**

Exercise 4: Word Sort — Answers

T Rule: water, little, matter, cattle, rattle, settle

O Rule: dot, cop, mop, hop, chop, cot

Exercise 5: Gap Fill — Answers

1. satin — **T Rule**

2. plot — **O Rule**

3. mutton — **T Rule**

4. fox — **O Rule**

5. written — **T Rule**

6. ox — **O Rule**

7. kitten — **T Rule**

8. nod — **O Rule**