

Try not to look at the transcript while doing these exercises! Always read the instructions and all the information in the tasks before listening. Listen as many times as you like.

You say *to-may-to*

- 1 Before listening: what differences do you know between words used in British English and American English?

a Write three words that have different meanings.

b Who says *to-may-to* and who says *to-mah-to*?



- 2 Listen for general meaning: listen to the whole podcast and tick (✓) the topic that Sarah and Jackie do *not* talk about.

different meanings of words
 different spelling
 different pronunciation
 different tenses
 not being understood

Which speaker do you find easier to understand: Jackie or Sarah?

- 3 Listen for detail: look at these words. Decide if they are British or American English. Then listen again and check your answers.

	UK	US
a pants		
b trousers		
c chemist		
d plaster		
e pharmacist		
f Band-Aid		

	UK	US
g drugstore		
h high street		
i French-fries		
j cigarette ●●●		
k pecan ●●		
l aluminium		

- 4 Listen for detail: listen again and answer these questions:

a Who laughs when they hear word *pants*: the British or Americans?

- b* Sarah thinks people were lying when they said they didn't understand her. True or false?
- c* What does Neal's Yard Dairy sell?
- d* Who does Sarah think is more difficult to understand: the British or Americans?
- e* Sarah knew that a *plaster* is a *Band-Aid*. True or false?
- f* The Americans don't have the word *high street* because...
 - they use a different word
 - their towns are built in a different way
 - they only have roads, not streets
- g* Both the British and the Americans use the word *chips*. True or false?
- h* What is a pecan?
- i* Complete the phrase at the end of the podcast: That's all _____!

5 After listening: now do the vocabulary worksheet.

6 After listening: writing. Do you have any funny stories about some confusion between American and English words? Why not write to us at richard@podcastsineenglish.com we'd love to hear from you!

answers

level 2

- 1 *a* There are many more words on the extra vocabulary worksheet from the 'extras' page: **Language: US English**
 b *to-may-to*: the Americans *to-mah-to*: the British

Please note that there are also regional variations on how words are spoken in both countries. What Jackie and Sarah say is not definitely the case for all Americans and all British people!

- 2 different tenses ✓
 However, there are differences between the tenses. The Americans don't use the present perfect (*I have done*) nearly as much as the British. They don't use the passive tense (*something was done*) as much either, nor do they use *have got*.
 Other examples include: the British say *dive/dived* whereas the Americans say *dive/dove* /dəʊv /

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	UK	US		UK	US
<i>a</i> pants*		✓	<i>g</i> drugstore		✓
<i>b</i> trousers	✓		<i>h</i> high street	✓	
<i>c</i> chemist	✓		<i>i</i> French-fries		✓
<i>d</i> plaster	✓		<i>j</i> cigarette ●●	✓	
<i>e</i> pharmacist		✓	<i>k</i> pecan ●●		✓
<i>f</i> Band-Aid**		✓	<i>l</i> aluminium***	✓	

*The British have another meaning for pants:

** This is an American trade mark

*** The Americans say *aluminum*



- 4 *a* the British
 b True
 c cheese
 d the Americans
 e False
 f ...because their towns are built in a different way
 g True
 h a nut
 i That's all *folks!*

- 5 There is also an extra listening for members that goes with this podcast.