



TASK 5: British English and American English

Group no.: **School:**

Participants:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

TASK: English is spoken in many varieties around the world. The two best known ones are British English and American English. Please read the following letter written by an American student to his English friend, list as many examples of American grammar and vocabulary in the table below and provide their British English equivalents.

03.06.2008

Hi Percy,

I just came home. I had so much luggage that I had to take a station wagon cab from the airport but I forgot to give the driver a tip and he just left me with all that stuff on the sidewalk in front of the dorm. When the janitor saw me he offered to help and insisted I take the elevator. When I heard that I just went like ‘I’m a good athlete’ and I just picked up all the bags and walked up to my apartment on the second floor. It felt so strange to be back where I lived! I even had problems finding the closet or the garbage can and operating the outlets or the faucet when I tried for the first time.

A couple minutes later I realized I didn’t have anything to eat and I had to go shopping. The temperature outdoors was in the seventies, so I changed my pants into shorts and walked down to the convenience store between the parking lot and the laboratory. I found it without any problems but it was closed and I decided to drive to a gas station. That wasn’t too smart, though. First my automobile almost got smashed by a truck because I started driving on the wrong side of the road and then I got so mad I ran a stop light at a junction next to a high school. I was really worried I would be caught by the police on my first day back home! Luckily, there were no cops around and the gas station was close by.

I almost freaked out when I saw all the stuff in there. I got some candy, peanut butter, jelly, lots of chips, frozen French fries, two cans of corn, a bag of cereal, a jug of vitamin D milk, a stick of butter, a root beer and the TV guide. Life it tough, though. The sales clerk could not understand me when I asked him where the lavatory was and wondered about my accent even though all I spent in England was only a semester.

Back in my apartment I finally relaxed. I sat down in my favorite lazy chair in the living room, had a snack and started browsing the mail that had been sitting in my mailbox since fall. When I was done I flipped the TV on. It was so great to watch football and wrestling again, skip summer vacation commercials and switch between old movie channels. It finally felt like home.

Take care,

Brad

