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Episode #095

American vs. British

Vocabulary Differences (part 3)

Hello, everybody! I am Georgiana your English teacher and founder of SpeakEnglishPodcast.com. My mission is to help you to speak English fluently.

Two weeks ago, we started with a series of **vocabulary differences between American and British English**. Today we will continue this series, although we'll focus on food vocabulary differences.

And with a point of view story, you're gonna compare the different grammar points. It's **the perfect way to learn grammar and new vocabulary without memorizing**.

Ok! Let's start!

1) **Zucchini**

Maybe you aren't familiar with this word. It's a long, thin vegetable with dark green skin. It looks similar to a cucumber, but it's larger, and we don't eat it in a salad .

Yes. I'm talking about a vegetable called **zucchini**. I love zucchini noodles and zucchini soup! You should try that out because it's simply delicious!

In the United Kingdom, people use the word **courgette**, which comes from French.

American-**zucchini**
British- **courgette**

2) I'm sure you know the meaning of the following word.

I'm talking about the word **cookie**. Everybody loves chocolate cookies!

But do you know the meaning of the word **biscuit**?

That's right. **Biscuit** has the same meaning as "cookie," though it's used in the UK.

American-**cookie**
British- **biscuit**

3) There's a purple vegetable, similar to an egg. Can you guess?

Exactly! An **eggplant**!

What do you think? Personally, I don't think eggplants look like an egg.

In British it's called **aubergine**. It sounds funny because it's also a word that comes from French.

American-**eggplant**
British- **aubergine**

4) Have you ever heard of **jacket potatoes**?
No. It's not a potato that's wearing a jacket.

In American English, we call them **baked potatoes**, but in British it's called **jacket potato**.

Therefore, **baked or jacket potatoes** are usually well cooked, so they have a fluffy interior and a crisp skin.

American-**baked potatoes**
British- **jacket potato**.

5) And even though I love baked potatoes, I also eat **fries** from time to time.

Do you know what they call them in the UK?

Yep, in the UK they're called **chips**.

American-**french fries/ fries**
British-**chips**

6) Let's see if you can guess this one.

It's one of the most popular plants in the States.

It's a tall vegetable with yellow and white seeds. We often cook the seeds or made them into flour or feed them to animals.

Yes. The correct word is **corn or maize**. The word **maze** is used in the UK.

American-**corn**
British- **maize**

7) Try guessing the next word. It's also straightforward:

Think of sweet food made of sugar or chocolate.

That's right! **Candy**.

In the UK they call them **sweets**.

Candies come in all shapes and textures. They are made using sugar, chocolate, artificial, or natural sweeteners.

Sometimes we use sweeteners instead of sugar because they have fewer calories.

American-**candy**

British- **sweets**

8) And how about something sweet and icy?

Ice cream would be a perfect guess here though in this case, I was thinking about a **popsicle**.

A **popsicle** is a refreshing dessert that is often made out of frozen fruit juice. I love preparing my own ice-cream at home, but I prefer sherbet instead of **popsicles**. A sherbet is an ice cream made of fruit. I buy frozen fruits like strawberries or raspberries and then mix them with yogurt - you have to try it! It's delicious, refreshing, and very healthy.

In British English, they call it "**ice lolly**,"

American-**popsicle**

British- **ice lolly**

9) The last word is also a delicious dessert. It is very popular nowadays, and almost anyone can prepare it.

I was talking about a **cupcake**.

A **cupcake** is very similar to a muffin, but it is always sweet and often covered with frosting.

Muffins, on the other hand, are generally considered healthier than cupcakes. They are usually made with whole wheat flour and loaded with fruit.

I prefer muffins over cupcakes because I find them healthier.

In British English, they are called "**fairy cake.**"

American-**cupcake**

British- **fairy cake**

Point of View

(practice your grammar)

This kind of story **will help you to improve your English grammar.** It's very simple. I tell you the same story more than once. Every time I change a grammatical aspect. So, you can see how grammar changes and you can compare. You just have to listen.

Let's listen to the story from Jack's point of view in the past tense:

When I was 8, my mom threw me a birthday party and invited my friends.

She was very worried about what I ate, so she prepared a healthy meal for the party as well.

We kids love to eat **fries** and all kinds of unhealthy snacks, but instead, my mom made a dish of **baked potatoes** with **eggplants** and **zucchini**.

I asked her the day before to bake some **cupcakes or some cookies**, although she figured it would be better if my friends and I ate some blueberry muffins instead.

And yes, the party was a disaster. I became upset because my friends wanted to leave. Fortunately, my mother was always resourceful, so she had made some orange **popsicles**.

Everyone loves her orange popsicles. I don't know why exactly.

Apparently, she makes them with freshly squeezed organic oranges.

Let's listen to the story from Jack's mother point of view in the past tense:

When my son Jack was 8, I threw him a birthday party and invited his friends.

I was very worried about what he ate, so I prepared a healthy meal for the party as well.

Kids love to eat **fries** and all kinds of unhealthy snacks, but instead, I've made a dish of **baked potatoes** with **eggplants** and **zucchini**.

My son asked me the day before to bake some **cupcakes or some cookies**, although I figured it would be better if he and his friends ate some blueberry muffins instead.

And yes, the party was a disaster. My son was upset because his friends wanted to leave.

Fortunately, I'm a resourceful mother, so I had made some orange **popsicles**.

Everyone loves my orange popsicles. Do you know why? I make them with freshly squeezed organic oranges.

All right! It's the end of this point of view story.

I use this successful method in my courses. Imagine a whole story told this way. Instead of having to memorize boring grammar rules, you can use this method to learn grammar. It's more enjoyable but also more effective.

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Well, that's it for today!

Please help me spread the word about the podcast. Tell your friends about the show and leave a comment on iTunes when you have a minute. That would make me very happy!

I'll be back next week!

Take care! Bye! Bye!



Georgiana

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