

How British is your English? defining relative clauses practice

Listen to or read the definitions below and write one word or expression that you most often use to talk about that thing in English. If you have no idea, just leave a blank for now.

What do you call a train system that travels under the street?

What do you call the fuel which you put in your car?

What do you call small sweet things children often buy, keep in their pockets, and eat?

What do you call the covering of your car's engine which you must open to check the water and oil?

What do you call the place where you need to go after drinking a lot of water?

What do you call a portable light that you can use to find your way in the dark?

What do you call a thing which a woman carries her possessions in, often made from leather?

What do you call the time when your tyres lose all their air?

What do you call a special time when you don't have to work such as a week during the summer?

What do you call clothes men and women wear on the bottom half of their body such as jeans?

What do you call small, hard, sweet snacks which are usually circular and are often eaten with a cup of tea or coffee?

What do you call a person who delivers your letters?

What do you call a thing that a man puts his money in?

What do you call the document on which the train times are written?

Read the hints below and write one word/ expression that you are most likely to use in English. All are correct, so just choose the one which you think you would say. If you wrote something before, don't change it unless it isn't in this list.

A train system that travels under the street

The underground The subway The tube

The fuel which you put in your car

Petrol Gasoline Gas

Small sweet things children often buy, keep in the pockets, and eat

Candy Sweets

The covering of your car's engine which you must open to check the water and oil

The bonnet The hood

The place where you need to go after drinking a lot of water

The toilet The loo The bathroom The restroom

A portable light that you can use to find your way in the dark

A flashlight A torch

A thing which a woman carries her possessions in, often made from leather

A purse A handbag

The time when your tyres lose all their air

A flat A puncture

A special time when you don't have to work such as a week during the summer

A holiday A vacation

Clothes men and women wear on the bottom half of their body such as jeans

Pants Trousers

Small, hard, sweet snacks which are usually circular and are often eaten with a cup of tea or coffee

Cookies Biscuits

A person who delivers your letters.

A mailman A postman

The thing that a man puts his money in

A wallet A billfold

The document on which the train times are written

The timetable The schedule

Put one British or American point into this table depending on which word you chose, then work out the percentages. The British choices are underlined.

American English	points	%
British English	points	%

A train system that travels under the street

The underground

The subway

The tube

The fuel which you put in your car

Petrol

Gasoline

Gas

Small sweet things children often buy, keep in the pockets, and eat

Candy

Sweets

The covering of your car's engine which you must open to check the water and oil

The bonnet

The hood

The place where you need to go after drinking a lot of water

The toilet

The loo

The bathroom

The restroom

A portable light that you can use to find your way in the dark

A flashlight

A torch

A thing which a woman carries her possessions in, often made from leather

A purse

A handbag

The time when your tyres lose all their air

A flat

A puncture

A special time when you don't have to work such as a week during the summer

A holiday

A vacation

Clothes men and women wear on the bottom half of their body such as jeans

Pants

Trousers

Small, hard, sweet snacks which are usually circular and are often eaten with a cup of tea or coffee

Cookies

Biscuits

A person who delivers your letters.

A mailman

A postman

The thing that a man puts his money in

A wallet

A billfold

The document on which the train times are written

The timetable

The schedule

Relative pronouns presentation

Put one word into each gap below. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

A train system _____ travels under the street

The fuel _____ you put in your car

Small sweet things _____ children often buy, keep in the pockets, and eat

The covering of your car's engine _____ you must open to check the water and oil

The place _____ you need to go after drinking a lot of water

A portable light _____ you can use to find your way in the dark

A thing _____ a woman carries her possessions in, often made from leather

The time _____ your tyres lose all their air

A special time _____ you don't have to work such as a week during the summer

Clothes _____ men and women wear on the bottom half of their body such as jeans

Small, hard, sweet snacks _____
are usually circular and are often eaten with a cup of tea or coffee

A person _____ delivers your letters.

The thing _____ a man puts his money in

The document on _____ all the train times are written

Check as a class or with the answer key, asking about any which you got different answers for, etc.

Why can some of the examples above not have the relative pronoun removed?

How can you rewrite the last example above to include "where" instead of "which"?

Suggested answers

A train system which/ that travels under the street

The fuel which/ that/ - you put in your car

Small sweet things which/. that/ - children often buy, keep in the pockets, and eat

The covering of your car's engine which/ that/ - you must open to check the water and oil

The place where/ - you need to go after drinking a lot of water

A portable light which/ that/ - you can use to find your way in the dark

A thing which/ that/ - a woman carries her possessions in, often made from leather

The time when/ - your tyres lose all their air

A special time when/ - you don't have to work such as a week during the summer

Clothes which/ that/ - men and women wear on the bottom half of their body such as jeans

Small, hard, sweet snacks which/ that are usually circular and are often eaten with a cup of tea or coffee

A person who/ that/ - delivers your letters.

The thing which/ that/ - a man puts his money in

The document on which all the train times are written

Why can some of the examples above not have the relative pronoun removed?

How can you rewrite the last example above to include "where" instead of "which"?

How British is your English? pairwork speaking

Student A

Explain the words below to your partner (like in example 1 below) and circle which word they usually use. If they can't think of a word which matches your explanation, read them the options below and ask them which one they prefer (**not** which one they think is British English). If you don't understand the words or can't explain, you can use a dictionary, but the person listening cannot.

1. **curtains**/ drapes ("What do you call things that hang inside your window and you close every night?")
2. **the accelerator**/ the gas pedal ("What do you call the thing in your car that...?")
3. an elevator/ **a lift**
4. **a jumper**/ a sweater/ a pullover
5. a store/ **a shop**
6. **a frying pan**/ a fry pan
7. a zipper/ **a zip**
8. **a (winter/ woollen) scarf**/ a muffler
9. soda/ **a fizzy drink**/ pop
10. **a lorry**/ a truck
11. a cellular phone/ a cell phone/ a cell/ **a mobile/ a mobile phone**
12. a highway/ **a motorway**/ an expressway
13. **a flat**/ an apartment/ a condo
14. **the town centre/ the city centre**/ downtown
15. **a jam sandwich**/ a jelly sandwich
16. the sidewalk/ **the pavement**
17. **a car park**/ a parking lot
18. **a postcode**/ a zip code

Give one "British English point" for each word they used that is written in **bold** above (e.g. **curtains**), and one "American English point" for each word they used that is not written in bold (e.g. the gas pedal). Then tell them their percentage.

Total score

	Points	Percentage
American English		
British English		

How British is your English? pairwork speaking

Student B

Explain the words below to your partner (like in example 1 below) and circle which word they usually use. If they can't think of a word which matches your explanation, read them the options below and ask them which one they prefer (**not** which one they think is British English). If you don't understand the words or can't explain, you can use a dictionary, but the person listening cannot.

1. **a film**/ a movie ("What do you call a thing that you watch at the cinema?")
2. **jelly**/ Jell-O ("What do you call a food that...?")
3. a station wagon/ **an estate (car)**
4. fall/ **autumn**
5. **a chemist's**/ a drugstore/ a pharmacy
6. corn/ **sweet corn**
7. pudding/ **crème caramel**
8. **a police car**/ a patrol car
9. **a (sticky) plaster**/ a band aid
10. **the till**/ a (cash) register
11. garbage/ trash/ **rubbish**
12. a line/ **a queue**
13. **a spanner**/ a wrench
14. **the boot**/ the trunk
15. the gear shift/ **the gear lever**
16. **a jug**/ a pitcher
17. fries/ French fries/ **chips**
18. **the gear box**/ the transmission
19. a packet of chips/ **a packet of crisps**

Give one "British English point" for each word they used that is written in **bold** above (e.g. **a film**), and one "American English point" for each word they used that is not written in bold (e.g. Jell-O). Then tell them their percentage.

Total score

	Points	Percentage
American English		
British English		

What your score means

100% British English- You are as British as a bowler hat and a pin-stripe suit. In other words, you are more British than most young British people!

90% British English- You might think you can pass as British, but not quite! Your English is something like Gwyneth Paltrow or Renee Zellweger playing a British character.

About 70% British- Are you Australian? If not, you must be a Kiwi.

50/50- You are very confused

About 70% American- Do you also like maple syrup? You must be Canadian

90% American- You are as American as apple pie (they also have apple pie in England, they just don't make such a big thing about it)

100% American- You are as American as a Texan cowboy