

Do We Speak English or English?

Presentation by
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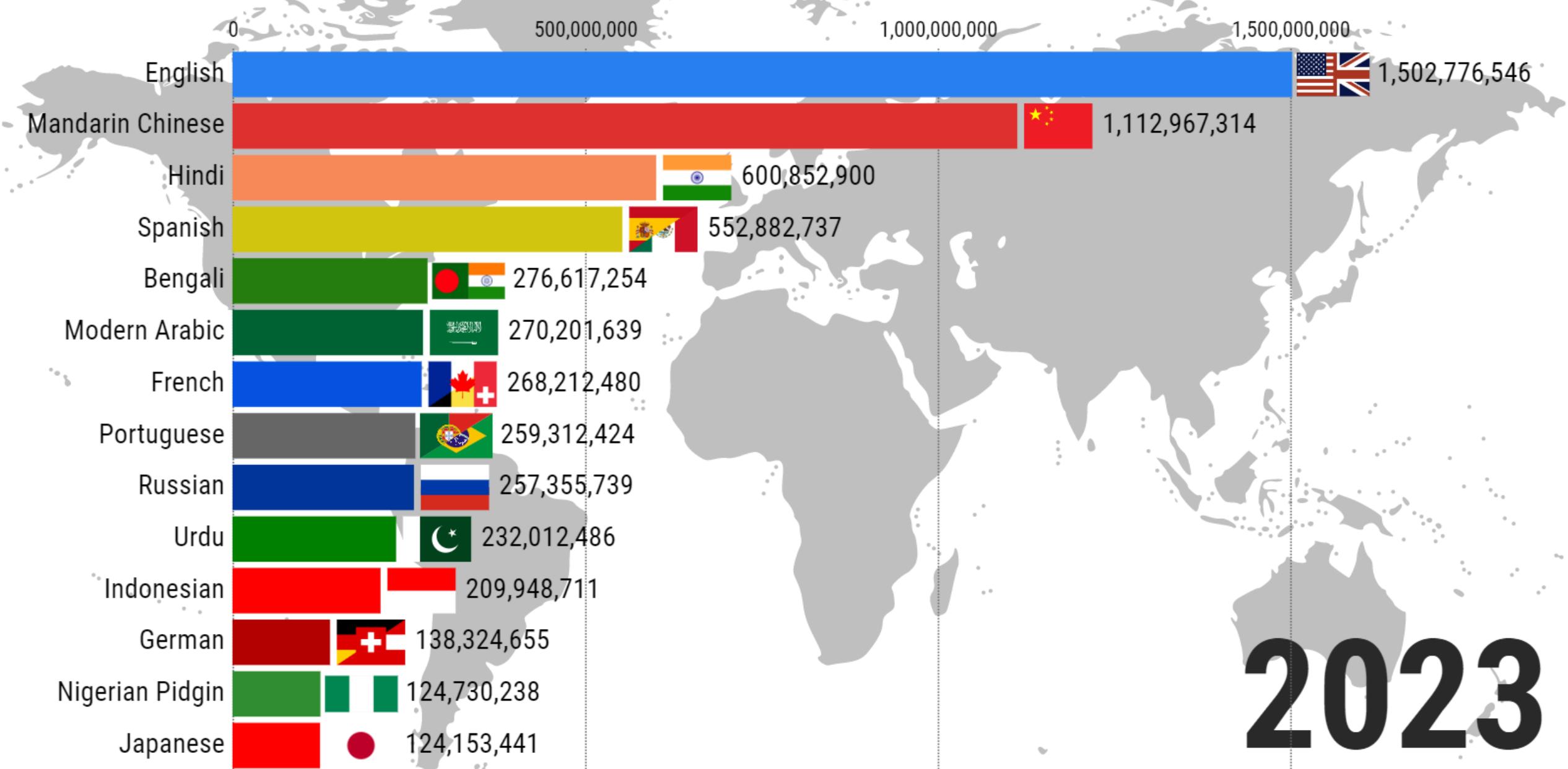
What I Will Discuss

- **English Facts**
- **History**
- **Differences in use of tenses**
- **Differences in Vocabulary**
- **Time Telling**
- **Vocabulary and Slang**
- **Spelling**
- **Word Differences**
- **Q & A**

English Facts

- English is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world, and you'll find its more than 1 billion speakers just about everywhere.
- English is also the recognized international language for medicine, airlines and for the scientific world.
- In this presentation, I will focus on two particular groups of English speakers located on either side the Atlantic Ocean, or what the British refer to as "the pond."
- If you've enjoyed some British *football*, puzzled over a British *biscuit*, or just watched a little "Peppa Pig" with your kids or grand children, I probably won't surprise you when I say there are some key and noteworthy differences in how English functions in the United States versus the United Kingdom.
- I will discuss some fun and noteworthy examples of how English vocabulary, slang, spelling, and pronunciation can vary depending on your location.

The Most Spoken Languages in the World



Historically

- The English language was introduced to the Americas by the arrival of the British, beginning in the late 16th and early 17th centuries.
- The language also spread to numerous other parts of the world as a result of British trade and settlement and the spread of the former British Empire, which, by 1921, included 470–570 million people, or about a quarter of the world's population.
- In England, Wales, Ireland and especially parts of Scotland there are differing varieties of the English language, so the term 'British English' is an oversimplification. Likewise, spoken American English varies widely across the United States. In both cases these differences are more dialectic versus spelling variances.



Historically

- Of course there are also distinct dialect differences.
- Written forms of British and American English as found in newspapers and textbooks vary little in their essential features, with only occasional but noticeable differences.
- American English is the form of English used in the United States. It includes all English dialects used within the United States of America. British English is the form of English used in the United Kingdom. It includes all English dialects used within the United Kingdom.
- Differences between American and British English include pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, spelling, punctuation, idioms, and formatting of dates and numbers.

Differences in use of tenses

- In British English the present perfect is used to express an action that has occurred in the recent past that has an effect on the present moment. For example: I've misplaced my pen. Can you help me find it? In American English, the use of the past tense is also permissible: I misplaced my pen. Can you help me find it? In British English, however, using the past tense in this example would be considered incorrect.
- Other differences involving the use of the present perfect in British English and simple past in American English include the words already, just, and yet.
- British English: I've just had dinner. Have you finished your homework yet? American English: "I just had dinner." Or "Did you finish your homework?"
"I've already seen that film." Vs "I saw that film."



American vs. British Accent

- Prior to the Revolutionary War and American independence from the British in 1776, American and British accents were similar. Where rhotic i.e. speakers pronounced the letter *R* in *hard*. Since 1776, the accents diverged but English accent in America has changed less drastically than accents in Britain.
- Towards the end of the 18th century, non-rhotic speech took off in southern England, especially among the upper class; this "prestige" non-rhotic speech was standardized and has been spreading in Britain ever since.
- Most American accents, however, remained rhotic.
- There are a few fascinating exceptions: New York and New England accents became non-rhotic, perhaps because of the region's British connections. Irish and Scottish accents, however, remained rhotic.
- To be fair, both American and British English have several types of accents and there is no one true American or British accent.

British Accents

- There are many distinct British accents.
- Some of them include Multicultural London English (MLE), Northern, Southern, Welsh, Cockney, Yorkshire, West Country (Southwest British), Northern Irish, Scottish, Midlands English, Estuary English (Southeast British) and many more.
- Although as Americans we can generally recognize British accents, we only are aware of only a few of them.
- I have a different seminar covering Australian & New Zealand English Accents.



American Accents

- Likewise, there are many distinct American Accents depending upon region.



- They include Northeastern, New England, Boston, Maine, New York and (variants). Philadelphia, Southern, Midwestern Accent, Californian (Valley), Hawaiian, Pacific Northwest, High Tider, Cajun, Southern Floridian, Pacific Northwest, Country, Texas,, High Tider, Cajun, Western, Midwestern, Canadian, Northern, Cajun, Old Southern, and Appalachian,

Differences in Vocabulary

- While some words may mean something in British English, the same word might be something else in American English and vice versa. For example, *Athlete* in British English is one who participates in track and field events whereas *Athlete* in American English is one who participates in sports in general.
- *Rubber* in British English: tool to erase pencil markings.
Rubber in American English: condom.
- There are also some words like AC, Airplane, bro, catsup, cell and phone which are common in American English and not used very often in British English.
- Some words widely used in British English and seldom in American English are advert, anti-clockwise, barrister, cat's eye.

Time Telling

- Both languages have a slightly different structure of telling the time. While the British would say *quarter past ten* to denote 10:15, it is not uncommon in America to say *quarter after* or even *a quarter after ten*.
- Thirty minutes after the hour is commonly called half past in both languages. Americans always write digital times with a colon, thus 6:00, whereas Britons often use a point, 6.00.



BRITISH SLANG

British vs. American words: Vocabulary and Slang

- In general, most words mean the same thing in British and American English. For example, the words *apple* and *chair* refer to the same objects in both versions of English. For the most part, speakers of American English and British English won't have much trouble at all understanding one another when it comes to vocabulary.
- However, there are many examples of the same thing being referred to by different words depending on if you are using American or British English. For a well-known example, British English uses the word *football* to refer to the sport that Americans know as *soccer*. For the sport that Americans know as *football*, Brits use the term ... *American football*.

SLANG	=	MEANING	SLANG	=	MEANING
Bloke	=	A man	Tad	=	Little bit
Wicked	=	Cool	Tenner	=	£10
Blinding	=	Excellent	Bloody	=	Used for emphasis
Ace	=	Cool	Chuffed	=	Proud
Blimey	=	Surprise, anger,...	Fiver	=	£5
Bangers	=	Sausage	Have a gander	=	Look
Plonker	=	Idiot	Lost the Plot	=	Gone Crazy
Scrummy	=	Delicious	Fit	=	Hot
Bugger all	=	Nothing at all	Toff	=	Upper-class person
Gutted	=	Devastated	Skive	=	Play hookey
Blighty	=	Britain	Fancy	=	Like smt or s.o
Minging	=	Disgusting	Grub	=	Food
Posh	=	High-class	Quid	=	£ (one pound)
Give you a bell	=	Call you	Sorted	=	Arranged
Nice one	=	Messed up	Shag	=	Screw

Vocabulary and Slang

- These are far from the only examples, though. Here are just a few examples of two different words being used to refer to the same thing:
- French fries/fries (American) vs. chips (British)
- cotton candy (American) vs. candyfloss (British)
- apartment (American) vs. flat (British)
- garbage (American) vs. rubbish (British)
- cookie (American) vs. biscuit (British)
- green thumb (American) vs. green fingers (British)
- parking lot (American) vs. car park (British)
- pants (American) vs. trousers (British)
- windshield (American) vs. windscreen (British)

Vocabulary and Slang

We can find similar examples when we look at slang words. Sometimes, different slang words are used in American and British English to refer to the same things.

- A wad of mucus: booger (American) vs. bogey (British)
- A man: dude (American) vs. bloke (British)
- Very good: awesome (American) vs. ace (British)
- To chat: shoot the breeze (American) vs. chinwag (British)
- An infantry soldier: grunt (American) vs. squaddie (British)
- A toilet: john (American) vs. loo (British)
- An anonymous man: John Doe (American) vs. John Smith (British)
- To waste time: lollygag (American) vs. faff about (British)

Vocabulary and Slang

Finally, both American and British English have words that are used exclusively.

- For example, American English has words like bayou and cleats for which there is no British equivalent. On the other side, British English uses terms like bunce, niff, and jiggery pokery that don't really have American equivalents.



British vs. American Spelling

- Generally speaking, most English words are spelled the same in American and British English. However, there are some notable spelling patterns that are preferred depending on which form of English is used.

There are many words that are spelt differently in both forms of English. Some examples are:

-our (British) vs. -or (American)

- Examples: colour vs. color, armour vs. armor, flavour vs. flavor

-ise or -ize (British) vs. only -ize (American)

- Examples: apologise vs. apologize, fantasise vs. fantasize, idolise vs. idolize

British vs. American spelling

-yse (British) vs. -yze (American)

- Examples: analyse vs. analyze, paralyse vs. paralyze

Doubling the *L* in a verb conjugation (British) vs. keeping the single *L* (American)

- Examples: travelled vs. traveled, labelling vs. labeling

***AE* (British) vs. *E* (American)**

- Examples: leukaemia vs. leukemia, paediatrics vs. pediatrics

***-ence* (British) vs. *-ense* (American)**

- Examples: defence vs. defense

only *-ogue* (British) vs. *-og* or *-ogue* (American)

- Examples: catalogue vs. catalog, dialogue vs. dialog

***-re* (British) vs. *-er* (American)**

- Examples: Centre vs Center, metre vs. meter, lustre vs. luster

British vs. American spelling

- In addition to these common patterns, some specific words are spelled differently in American and British English.
- Some examples include *airplane* (the first in each pair is the common American term) and *aeroplane*, *gray* and *grey*, *tire* and *tyre*, and *mold* and *mould*.

English	American
Aeroplane	Airplane
Anticlockwise	Counterclockwise
Appetizer	Starter
Auto Bonnet	Hood
Autumn	Fall
Aubergine	Eggplant
Baby Milk	Formula
Bath	Bathtub
Beet Root	Beet
Bill	Check
Bin	Trash Cah
Biscuit	Cookie
Boot	Trunk
Braces	Suspenders
Bum Bag	Fanny Pack
Café	Coffee shop

Word Differences

English

Car Park
Chemist
Cinema
City Centre
Cling Film
Cooker
Coriander
Cosy
Crisps
Crossing
Curriculum Vitae
Curtains
Cutlery
Drawing Pin
Dummy

American

Parking Lot
Drugstore
Movie Theater
Downtown
Plastic Wrap
Stove
Cilantro
Cozy
Chips
Crosswalk
Resume
Drapes
Silverware
Thumbtack
Pacifier

Word Differences

English

American

Dust Bin	Trash can
Eggy Bread	French Toast
Fizzy Drnk	Soda Pop
Flat	Apartment
Flat	Apartment
Football	Soccer
Fortnight	Two Weeks
Fully booked	Booke up
Gammon	Ham
Garden	Back Yard
Goods	Freight
Ground Floor	First Floor
Fizzy Drnk	Soda Pop
Fairground ride	Amusement ride
Film	Movie
Halls of residence	Dormitory

Word Differences

English	American
Handbag	Purse
Ice Jolly	Popcicle
Jug	Pitcher
Jumper	Sweater
Lift	Elevator
Loo	Restroom
Lorry	Truck
Lorry	Truck
Maize	Corn
Maths	Math
Minced Meat	Ground Meat
Mobile phone	Cell Phone
Motorway	Superhighway
Motorway	Expressway
Mum	Mon
Nappy	Diaper
Neighbour	Neighbor

Word Differences

English	American
Official Block	Official building
Opposite	Across the room
Parcel	Package
Pavement	Sidewalk
Petrol	Gasoline (Gas)
Porridge	Oatmeal
Post	Mail
Puckish	hungry
Pudding	Desert
Pushchair	Baby Carriage
Resume	CV
Rubber	Eraser
Rubbish	Trash
Saloon (car)	Sedan (car)
Shop	Store
Shop Assistant	Salesclerk
Official Block	Official building

Word Differences

English	American
Sofa	Couch
Sorbet	Sherbet
Spring Onions	Green onions
Staff	Faculty
Sweets	Candy
Takeaway	Takeout
Tap	Faucet
Taxi	Cab
Tea Towel	Dish Towel
Tin	Can
Torch	Flashlight
Trainers	Sneakers
Treacle	Molasses
Trolley	Cart
Trousers	Pants
Underground	Subway
Waistcoat	Vest

Word Differences

Thanks For Coming

I hope you enjoyed my seminar!

If you have any more questions, please ask.

I will do my best to answer them for you.

I can be reached by e-mail at

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