

# How to Communicate With each Person Better-by Comparing the Similarities and Differences Between British Culture and American Culture

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**Abstract:** Each country has its own unique culture, They often carry the history of the country. And it is the crystallization of the wisdom of the local people. However, when we communicate with people from different countries, there are many cultural differences, which inevitably leads to some communication barriers. Sometimes, it can be very embarrassing because of misunderstanding. Therefore, we need to understand the cultural differences between different countries in order to we can communicate with others better. In Britain and the United States, for example, two countries have two aspects of differences, which include language differences and cultural differences. We decide to treat the differences from each other's national culture as a starting point, so that learn about the existence and the cultural differences of each other, reduce the possible of obstacles about the misunderstanding during the communication and seek common ground while put aside differences, mutual trust. This article will focus on this topic that how to communicate with each person better-by comparing the similarities and differences between British culture and American culture.

**Keywords:** Culture; Communication; Barriers; Differences; Bridge

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## 1. Introduction

We have learned English for many years, which we treat it just as a subject. We learned its vocabularies, pronunciation and grammar<sup>[1]</sup>. However, those only mean a quite superficial way. If we suppose to have a good command of language and communication, we should be able to have the insight to experience the similarities and differences between British culture and American culture<sup>[2]</sup>. It can not only help us get a deeper understanding of Western culture, but also bring convenience to our communication<sup>[3]</sup>.

Although we persuade ourselves that we comprehend English very much, we still have plenty of barriers to understand the core of English authentically. We don't understand how to communicate others better without the barriers. And it's very complicated for us



to break the shackles<sup>[4]</sup>. That's because our learners haven't approached the cultural connotation of British culture American culture<sup>[5]</sup>.

## 2. The similarities and differences between British culture and American culture

Given that we ought to overcome the barriers of communication,we decide to compare the similarities and differences between British culture and American culture.To grasp the culture differences between Britain and American by comparing<sup>[6]</sup>.First,it basically embodied in the differences between British pronunciation and American pronunciation<sup>[7]</sup>.One of the features of American English is its retroflex consonant,but British English has not<sup>[8]</sup>.The British English tone fluctuates greatly,the articulation is clear and high,the friction is heavy;while American English is mellower and softer<sup>[9]</sup>.The two are completely different in many vowels,stress and pitch.Second,British spelling of the words are longer than American's<sup>[10]</sup>.Individual letters spell differently sometimes,such as colour(E)-color(A),centre(E)-center(A),practise(E)-practice(A), etc<sup>[11]</sup>.Third,the same word has different meanings in British and American English<sup>[12]</sup>.



Generally,grasping British culture and American culture is of top priorities<sup>[13]</sup>.As far as the aspects of British history and American history, British has a longer history than America.And America is a relatively young country<sup>[14]</sup>.America,which is a country with low-context communication<sup>[15]</sup>.Britain,which is a country with high-context communication. When they communicate with other people,they behave politely and rely on context very much.British people are particular about headgear and footwear.Meanwhile,Americans emphasize on individualism and freedom.They hope to create values from the work<sup>[16]</sup>. Every person has the right to pursue their goals and dreams.Besides,British culture and American culture both have complete education system,but the British pursue a perfect education system and treat more strict with students;on the other hand the American pursue diversity,openness and flexibility so that education is full of energy and vitality<sup>[17]</sup>.In the process of education,they offer more time and space for students to encourage them to study and create.In comparison the education of British,the education of American can reflect the main role of students<sup>[18]</sup>.



## 3. Conclusion

As is known to all,it is difficult for everyone to avoid barriers when we communicate with others<sup>[19]</sup>.We need to learn about

the similarities and differences between British culture and American culture. If we misunderstand opposite side, we should stand in other's shoes and give others adequate respect and comprehension. Only by this polite and respectful way, can we build the bridge of communication.

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