

VARIETIES OF BRITISH AND AMERICAN ENGLISH IN PHONETIC

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**ARTICLE  
INFORMATION**

**ABSTRACT:**

**ARTICLE HISTORY:**

*Received: 15.02.2026*

*Revised: 16.02.2026*

*Accepted: 17.02.2026*

**KEYWORDS:**

*British English, American English, pronunciation, phonetics, accent variation, Received Pronunciation (RP), General American (GA), rhoticity, vowel differences, consonant articulation, stress and intonation, International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA).*

*This article highlights the phonetic differences between British and American English from the main English dialects. Although these 2 dialects have deep roots, that is, linguistic origins, they have many different situations in terms of pronunciation. The main purpose of this article is to identify and analyze the reasons for the above differences. First of all, it introduces the concept of phonetics, transcription, and speech sounds. Another goal of this research is to encourage English language learners to distinguish dialects from each other and to inform them about pronunciation methods in this language.*

**Introduction**

English is considered a global language worldwide, with more than a million speakers. This language is not pronounced the same in all regions. The most popular dialects are British and American English, which differ greatly from each other, especially in terms of

word pronunciation. The difference between them occurred due to certain reasons, namely time and distance. But first of all, we need to focus on the term phonetics. Phonetic is a branch of linguistics that studies and analyzes not sounds. He analyzes how sounds are formed through the palatal organs, how they sound, and how they are expressed using phonetic symbols such as the International Phonetic Alphabet.

The main reason for the difference in British and American pronunciation is the historical separation. When English spread to North America in the 17th century, it began to undergo developmental stages separately from British English. Britain continued to make news in English, while America retained more of its old pronunciation features. As a result, two main standard pronunciation models emerged: RP in Britain and GA in the USA.

### **Literature review**

Daniel Jones's book 'The pronunciation of English' provides a detailed explanation of British pronunciation. The author explains the pronunciation of vowels and consonants, the tone, the placement of stress in words, and distinguishes different varieties of English from each other. In his book 'A Course in Phonetics', Peter Ladefoged studies the sounds of speech from various angles. He explains how sounds occur and how they are heard when pronounced. J.C. Wells, in his book 'Accent of English', compares all the English dialects of the world. He reveals the different pronunciation processes of vowels and consonants in American and British English. John Algeo, in his book 'British or American English?', supplemented the scientific research of the above scholars, distinguishing between grammar and pronunciation. He explains the historical separation and the influence of the social external factors on British and American pronunciation.

### **Methodology**

British and American analyzed phonetic differences in English using the descriptive phonetic method. The research used scientific articles and books, audio recordings, and phonetic dictionaries as a database. These data were analyzed through phonetic transcription and showed that speech sounds, rhoticity, T-flapping, urġu, and intonation differ in both dialects. The research is based solely on standard British English and general American pronunciations. Through this method, pronunciation differences were studied and supported with examples.

### **Results and discussion**

Differences in Rhoticity

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The biggest phonetic difference between British and American English is the pronunciation of the r- sound, i.e., rhoticity. This means whether the sound r is pronounced or not. General American English speakers pronounce the r sound clearly, and hence it is called the Dialect rhotic. For example, in words like car hard sister, the sound r is pronounced and heard clearly. British English is the opposite, that is, they are non-rhotic. They are not pronounced when the r sound appears at the end of words or before consonants in certain places. The British pronounce the word car as /kɑ:/, while Americans pronounce it as /kɑr/. As a result of historical development, Americans emphasized the stronger pronunciation of consonants in English, while the British focused on sounding softer and smoother. Rhoticity is very important for listening and speaking skills of English language learners.

#### Vowel pronunciation differences

Another difference between British and American English is noticeable in the pronunciation of vowel sounds. British English speakers use a long a: vowel in the words bath, dance, last, while American English uses a short /æ/ vowel. As a result, the word last is pronounced /læst/ in English, and /lɑ:st/ in British English. This difference is also observed in the words "lot" and "hot." In British English, the vowel /ɒ/ is used in these words, and in American English, the vowel /ɑ/ is used. This leads to differences in sound pronunciation in words with the same spelling. Consonant features and T-Flapping.

Another difference in the phonetics of the British and American languages is the pronunciation of the sound t. In American English, when this sound appears between two vowels, it is pronounced as /r/. For example, the American English-speaking population pronounces the word better as /berər/. In Received Pronunciation (RP), they are pronounced as /berər/ because they pronounce the t sound clearly and distinctly. Because of this difference, American speech sounds faster and more relaxed, while British speech sounds more cautious and articulate. These different cases are considered natural phonetic processes.

#### Stress and intonation patterns

In British and American English, the placement of stress also differs. In some words, the placement of stress adapts to the dialect. For example, the stress in the words advertisement or laboratory varies in 2 dialects, and this sometimes leads to misunderstandings. The intonation patterns also differ slightly. In British English, a wider height range is used in

statements, but in American English, a smoother intonation is used. The above-mentioned differences play an important role in the cultural, reliable, or emotional sound of speech.

### **Conclusion**

Contradictory situations in the pronunciation of British and American English are based on historical, social, and phonetic factors. The main differences are: rhoticity, articulation of consonants, quality and length of vowels, stress, and intonation. In American English, the sound r in the words dance and last is always pronounced, while in British English it is not pronounced the opposite way. Also, consonants like t change in American English due to the flap process, which helps to hear speech faster and freer. Studying the pronunciation of British and American English provides valuable information for understanding the development of the English language and shows the importance of phonetics as a means of understanding how Nuts sounds work in different contexts.

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