

LEXICAL DIFFERENCES in BRITISH-NORTH AMERICAN ENGLISH

N.B. A few examples from among the estimated 4,000 words used differently in common speech:

<u>BE</u>	<u>NAE</u>	<u>BE</u>	<u>NAE</u>
full stop	period	mad	crazy, also mad
inverted commas	quotation marks	angry	mad, also angry
autumn	fall, also autumn	nasty, vicious	mean
holiday(s)	vacation	mean	stingy
bloke (infml)	guy (infml)	ill	sick* (in BrE tends to refer to nausea, in AmE retains older sense of ill in general), also ill
staff	faculty, also staff		pants (trousers is old use)
chemist	drug store	trousers	
nappy	diaper	jersey, jumper, pullover, sweater	sweater
cot	baby's crib (cot is a small, narrow bed)	rubber	eraser
flat	apartment	condom	rubber (infml), also condom
ground floor	first floor, also ground floor	fag (infml)	cigarette
first floor	second floor	gay	fag/faggot (infml, derogatory)
lift	elevator	fanny (taboo: female genitals)	fanny (infml, polite for buttocks), also butt
caretaker	janitor	bum (infml, polite for buttocks)	
car park	parking lot	tramp (infml)	tramp, bum (infml)
crossroads	intersection	arse (taboo: buttocks)	ass (taboo: buttocks)
roundabout	traffic circle		
pavement	sidewalk	bollocks (taboo: testicles)	nuts (taboo: testicles)
motorway	expressway, freeway, thruway	pissed (taboo: drunk)	pissed (impolite: angry)
lorry	truck	bugger (taboo: sodomize, also noun; used as exclamation)	-----
engine	motor, also engine	bloody (infml, not polite; used as exclamation)	-----
numberplate	licenseplate		
petrol	gas, gasoline		
road surface	pavement		
railway	railroad		motherfucker (taboo: used as exclamation or insult)
timetable	schedule, also timetable		
underground, tube (infml)	subway		
subway	pedestrian underpass		
film	movie, also film		
the cinema	the movies		
shop	store (shop is a small store)		
pub	bar		
crisps	potato chips		
chips	French Fries		
biscuit	cookies (biscuit is a type of soft bread or cake baked in small round pieces)		
sweets	candy		
candy floss	cotton candy (<i>zucchero filato</i>)		
corn (generic for cereal crop)	corn (<i>maize</i> in England)		
tin	can		
cooker	stove		
tap	faucet, also tap		
torch	flashlight		
rubbish	trash, garbage, also rubbish		
dustbin, rubbish-bin	trash or garbage can (also bin)		
post, postbox (but Royal Mail service)	mail, mailbox (but Postal Service)		
maths	math		