

American or British English?

Read the following sentences and make sure you understand the words in **BOLD** writing

- ~ There are more than a thousand words that have different meanings or **usages** in British and American English.
- ~ British and American spelling (of the same words) is always **identical** although the meanings may not be the same.
- ~ More people in the world speak American English than speak British English, if you include speakers of English **as a second language**
- ~ British school children **are penalized** for using American English in their school work because many teachers still think that British English is better.
- ~ Some American English movies need to be **subtitled** when they are shown in Britain because some American accents are difficult for British listeners to understand.
- ~ Some British English movies need to be subtitled or **dubbed** so that audiences in the USA are able to understand them
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- ~ Canadian English **bears a strong resemblance to** United States' English but they are not identical.
- ~ There are a few **subtle differences** between the American and British grammars.
- ~ English **loan-words** in European languages are all of British origin
- ~ British English is closer to the original language that was spoken before the two "languages" **diverged** in the eighteenth century.

Do you think these sentences are true or false?
Discuss your ideas with other class members.