

Who is this for?

This leaflet is for anyone who wants to improve their listening to American and British English.

Aim of this leaflet

The aim of this leaflet is to introduce you to material for practicing listening to British and American English.

Basic differences between American and British English

In spoken English the main difference between American and British is the accent, but there are also differences in the use and meaning of words. In everyday speech, however, these differences do not cause many problems.

Useful material in the Language Commons

On the *Dictionaries* shelf the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* provides British/American equivalent words. For example, for *trousers* (British English), the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* will also give the American equivalent *pants*.

Other materials

- The *BBC World Service* podcasts are a rich source of British English. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/worldserviceradio>
- YouTube have numerous videos by youtubers from both the UK and US.
- The local English TV channel, TVB Pearl have both American and British news presenters. You could try identifying and comparing their accents.
- Try also identifying whether your own lecturers speak with an American or British accent and note and compare their differences in accent and word usage.
- Various **videos and films** in the Language Commons contain British and American English.
- The Internet has various sites that contain listening materials. Two sites for access to news in American English are:
 - *CNN News* <http://www.cnn.com>
 - *Voice of America World News* <http://www.voanews.com/>

And now...

If you would like any help or advice, or just a chat about your progress, please get in touch - **we are here to support your independent learning!** To contact us:

- Make an appointment to see an adviser. For details of advisers and their availability, please go to <https://ilang.cle.ust.hk/language-adviser-timetable/>.
- E-mail your questions to **iLANG** (lcilang@ust.hk).
- Ask at the reception counter of the Language Commons — if the receptionist cannot help you directly, s/he will pass your query on to one of the advisers.

What else can you do?

- Browse the many **physical** (<https://ilang.cle.ust.hk/language-commons/#resources>) and **online materials** (<https://ilang.cle.ust.hk/resources-listening/>) for Listening.
- Join a Listening **activity or short course** (<http://ilang.cle.ust.hk/listening/>).

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