

# ompersonal newsletter

EL BOLETIN DE INGLES PREFERIDO POR EL HISPANOHABLANTE

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## EDITORIAL

Hola amig@:

Bajo el título **AMERICAN versus BRITISH**, y con algunos toques de humor, en el audiotexto de hoy analizaremos las diferencias en vocabulario y expresiones cotidianas del inglés AMERICANO y del inglés BRITÁNICO. A fin de no confundirte, a lo largo del texto cada expresión **AMERICANA** se ha resaltado en rojo y cada expresión **BRITANICA** en azul claro.

Recuerda que en nuestra plataforma no pagas nada porque **todo es gratuito**. Anímate a nuestros cursos que son **exactamente los que necesitas para mejorar tu posición actual**. Nuevo acceso en <https://www.ompersonal.com.ar>

Hasta nuestro próximo boletín el 20 de diciembre.

### OM PERSONAL ENGLISH

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**EN OM PERSONAL ENGLISH TU FIDELIDAD TIENE PREMIO.**

## COMPRESION AUDITIVA



### **AMERICAN versus BRITISH**

**AUDIO**

Now the VOA Learning English program "Words and Their Stories".

While people in both England and the US speak English, the two types of English can be very different.

## VOCABULARY

First, there are differences in spelling. The British like the letter “u” and have kept it in many words. Americans have dropped it. Somewhere in our language history, we decided that **LABOR (LABOUR)**, **COLOR (COLOUR)** and **FAVORITE (FAVOURITE)** were just fine without the “u” next to the “o.”  
**spelling:** ortografía; **have kept it:** la han conservado; **have dropped it:** la han eliminado; **labor/labour:** trabajo; **color/colour:** colorx; **favorite/favourite:** favorito;

**But our differences go beyond spelling. Sometimes, we use different words entirely. Here, we live in APARTMENTS with ELEVATORS. Over there, they live in FLATS with LIFTS.**

**go beyond:** van más allá (de la); **entirely:** completamente; **apartment/flat:** apartamento; **over there:** por allá (en Inglaterra); **elevator/lift:** ascensor;

**We put DIAPERS on our babies and push them in STROLLERS. The British love their babies just as much as we do, but they use NAPPIES and PRAMS instead.**

**diappers/nappies:** pañales; **strollers/prams:** cochecitos de bebés; **just as much as we do:** tanto como (lo hacemos) nosotros;

**We power our cars with GAS. They use PETROL. And, if we need to look in our car’s dark TRUNK for something, we use a FLASHLIGHT. They would use a TORCH to search their dark BOOT.**

**we power:** ponemos en marcha; **gas/petrol:** gasolina; **trunk/boot:** baúl del auto; **flashlight/torch:** linterna; **to search:** para hurgar o buscar;

## USUAL IDIOMS

Then there are idioms. Some British and American idioms have the same meaning, but use different words. For example, in the US if you want to add your opinion to a conversation, you **PUT IN YOUR TWO CENTS**. In the U.K., they **PUT IN THEIR TUPPENCE (or two PENCE) WORTH**. Makes sense. They have pence and we don’t.

**you put in your two cents/they put in their tuppence (pence) worth:** usted da su opinión/ellos dan su merecido parecer; **makes sense:** tiene sentido;

Another example is the idiom about discussing the same issue again and again, especially if it cannot be resolved. We say, **DON’T BEAT A DEAD HORSE**. The British, on the other hand, advise against flogging one (**NEVER FLOG A DEAD HORSE**). And, if you are keeping secrets in the United States, **YOU HAVE SKELETONS IN THE CLOSET**. In Great Britain, your skeletons would be hiding in a cupboard (**YOU HAVE SKELETONS IN A CUPBOARD**).

**issue:** tema, tópico; **resolved:** resuelto, solucionado; **don’t beat a dead horse/never flog a dead horse:** azotar a un caballo muerto (ser una pérdida de tiempo)/nunca azotes a un caballo muerto (es esforzarse en vano); **you have skeletons in the closet/you have skeletons in a cupboard:** tienes esqueletos en el ropero/tienes cosas negativas que ocultar en el armario;

## COMMON EXPRESSIONS

**But the real fun begins when we start exploring idioms and expressions that are unique to each country.**

**we start exploring:** empezamos a explorar; **that are unique to each country:** que son exclusivas de cada país;

**Let’s start with BOB’S YOUR UNCLE. To an American ear, that is a weird**

expression. And it has nothing to do with any relative you may or may not have named Bob. It is just a way to finish a set of simple instructions. What is the equivalent -- the different but equal saying -- in the US? Americans might say, **AND THERE YOU HAVE IT**. Or sometimes, more dramatic people will say, **TA-DA!**

**Bob's your uncle:** esto es fácil de hacer, es muy simple; **and there you have it:** y ahí lo tienes (es sencillo y fácil); **ta-da:** expresión que se utiliza para presentar un logro determinado o sorpresa;

For example, imagine you are explaining to someone how to use your new fancy, coffee maker. You explain: "First, you grind the beans. Then you put them in the side container and pour water in the main container. Push the button and ten minutes later -- **TA-DA!** -- you have a pot of coffee!

**you grind the beans:** mueles los granos de café; **side container:** contenedor lateral; **pour water:** echas agua; **main container:** contenedor principal; **push the button:** pulsa el botón de encendido; **ten minutes later:** diez minutos después;

Sometimes over a fresh pot of coffee, you may want to have a long talk with a friend. You might even throw in a little gossip. We call that a chat, or if it's a short conversation, **CHIT-CHAT**. The British would call it a **CHIN-WAG**.

**throw in a little gossip:** inicias comentarios chismosos; **chit-chat:** charla simple; **chin-wag:** plática o parloteo muy informal;

If a British person says, **I'VE GOT THE HUMP**, we might think they are sick and need to see a doctor. But in fact, when Brits say they have a hump, it means they are mildly annoyed or upset. In the US, some informal ways to say we are upset are **I'M TICKED OFF** or **I'M MIFFED**.

**I've got the hump:** estoy enfadado/a, malhumorado/a; **mildly annoyed or upset:** medianamente molesto/a o disgustado/a; **I'm ticked off:** me pone de mal humor; **I'm miffed:** estoy ofendido/a, irritado/a;

Now, when Americans are really surprised by something, we can say **WE ARE AT A LOSS FOR WORDS**. Or more informally, we simply say **WE ARE SHOCKED** or **BLOWN AWAY**. Across the Atlantic in the UK, they are **GOBSMACKED**. In the U.S., we don't get **SMACKED BY GOBS**. Ever.

**we are at a loss for words:** no encontramos las palabras, no sabemos qué hacer, estamos desconcertados; **we are shocked/blown away:** estamos escandalizados y perplejos; **gobsmacked:** asombrados; **smacked by gobs:** escupidos; **ever:** jamás;

## GREETINGS

Finally, a familiar word used by both countries but in different ways is "cheers." We use the word over drinks when we are wishing someone good health or congratulating an accomplishment. The British use **CHEERS** to mean "thank you". For that, we Americans say, **THANK YOU!**

**cheers (UK):** gracias/adiós en despedidas **cheers (US):** (1) salud (gritado justo antes de beber una bebida alcohólica para expresar buenos deseos; (2) agradecimiento;

Now, we don't expect you to pick sides. Both American and British English have their strong points. But thanks for listening to "Words and Their Stories", a program that teaches American English.

**we don't expect:** no esperamos; **you to pick sides:** que usted apoye o se pronuncie a favor (de uno u otro país); **both American and British English:** tanto el inglés americano como el británico; **have their strong points:** tienen sus puntos fuertes;

I'm Anna Matteo. **CHEERS!** I mean, **THANKS**.

**cheers! I mean, thanks!:** ¡Salud! quiero decir, Gracias.

Y ahora te invitamos a conocer nuestro extenso diccionario bilingüe bajo la temática **BRITISH VS AMERICAN** con audio y pronunciación figurada.

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#### próximo boletín: diciembre 20, 2023

Agradecemos que reenvíes este boletín a quienes puedan estar interesados en aprender y practicar gratuitamente inglés en nuestro megaportal.

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