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# Unit 5 Languages around the world

-by Lily

# A survey

Vocabulary???

Grammar???

Writing???

When you learn English,  
which confuses you most?

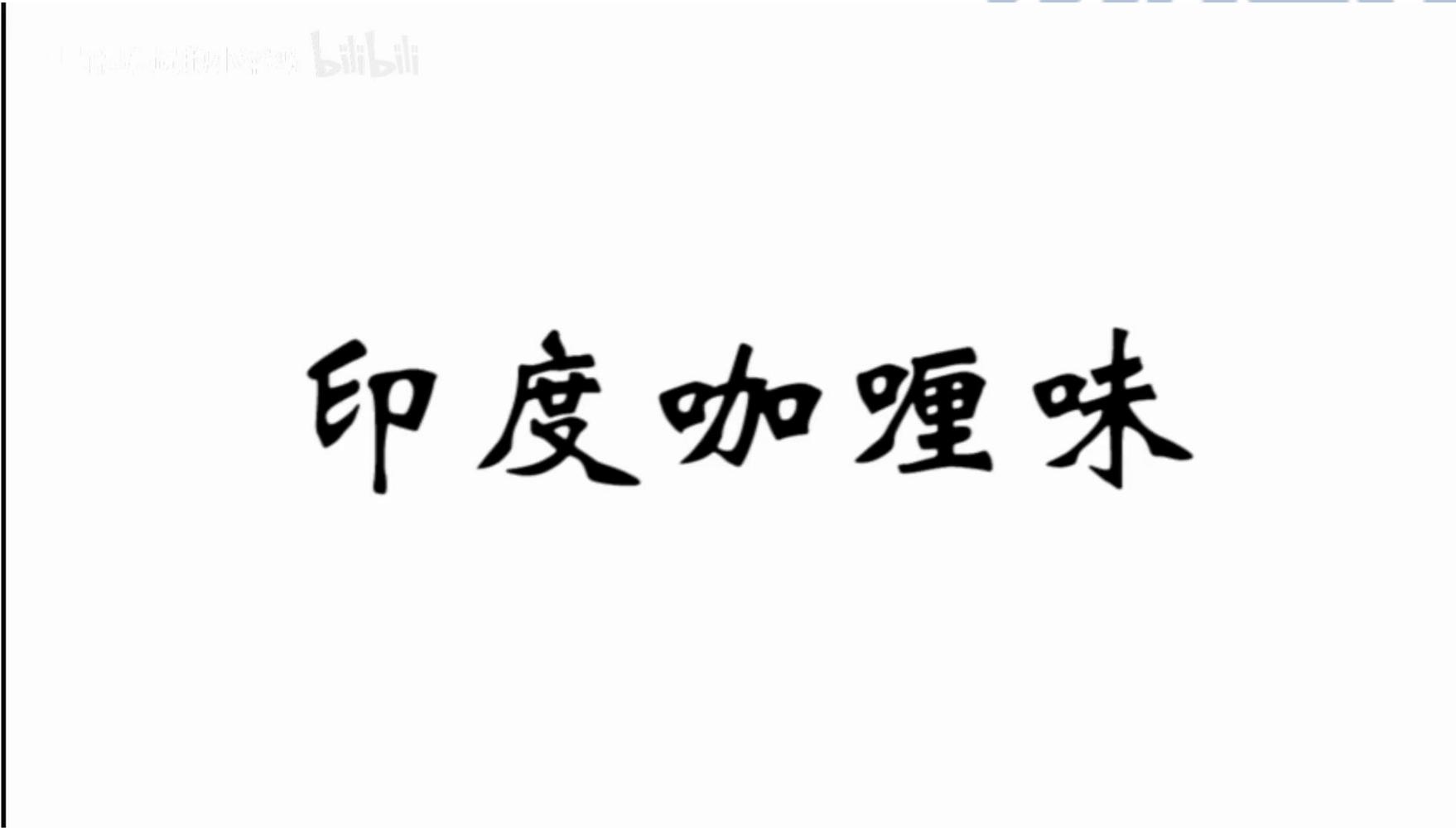
culture???

listening???

**pronunciation**



Watch the Video. What language is they speaking?

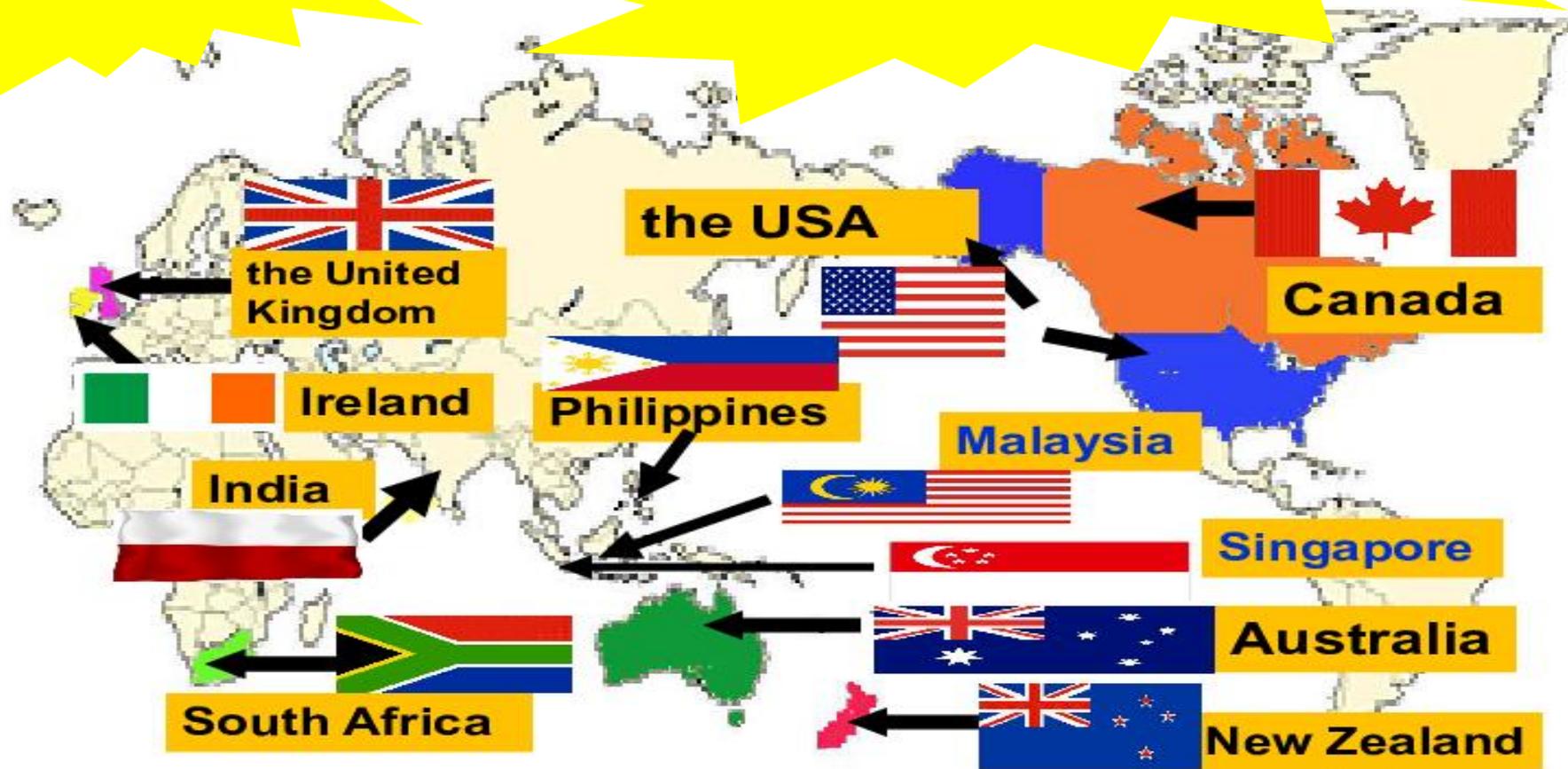


Why are there so many varieties of English?

English is the third one with the most native speakers

dialects

## Varieties of English





**Activity1: Listen to the first part of the talk and answer questions.**

1. What are the different kinds of English mentioned?

2. In what ways are these kinds of English different from each other?

3. For who can these differences cause confusion?

**Activity2:** Listen to the conversation between an American and her British friend. Tick the words that the student is confused by.



semester/term



restroom/toilet



gas/petrol



subway/underground



*British  
English*



*VS*

*American  
English*



# Activity 3: Talking

Which words are British English and which are American English?

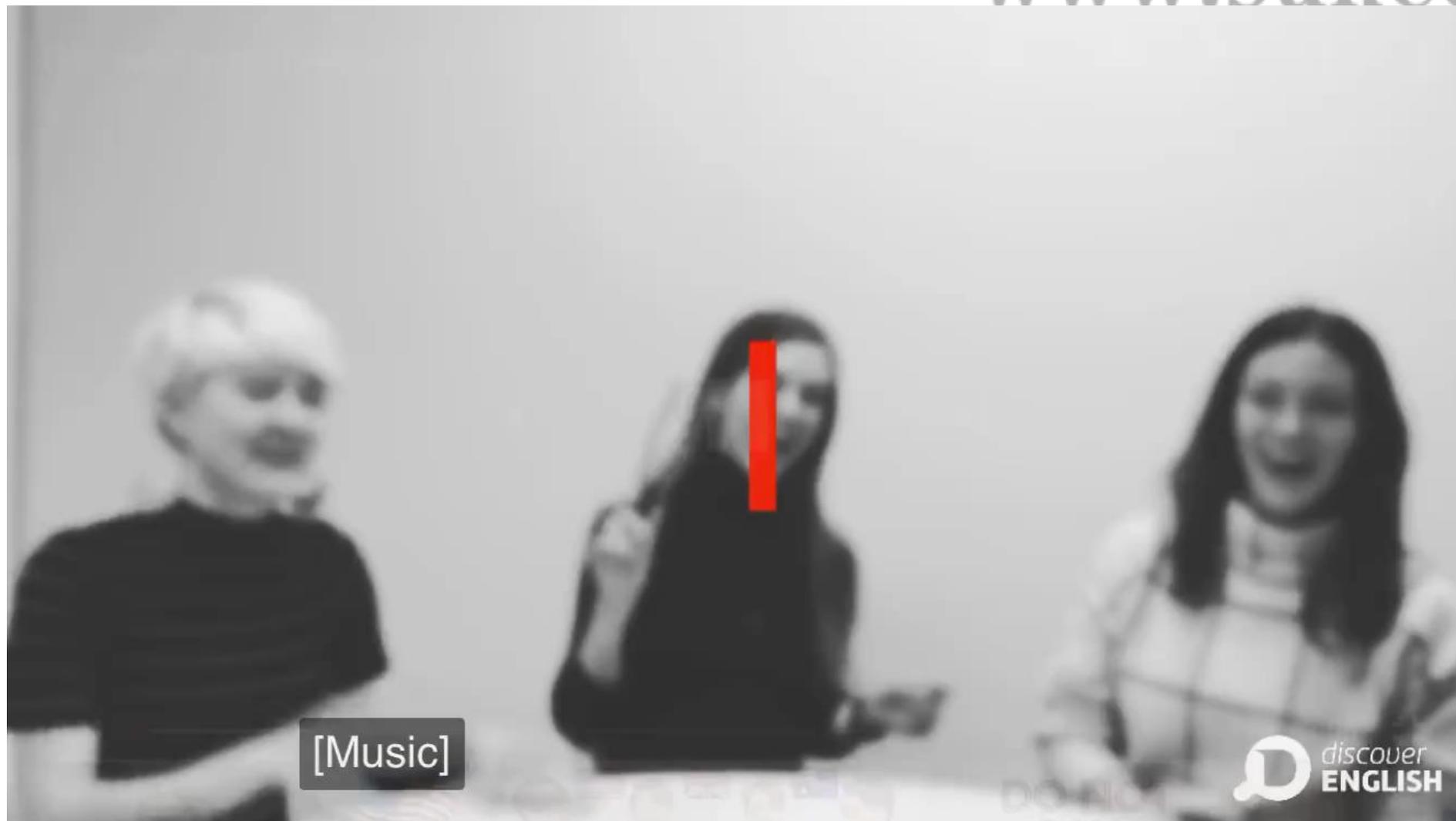
					
petrol	sweet	toilet	honour	mum	flat
gas	candy	restroom	honor	mom	apartment

British

American

**Find More examples that show the differences among**

**Take notes of the examples as much as possible.**





**AE: Mickey D's**  
**Australia :Mac's**



**BE: bathroom**  
**AE: restroom**  
**Australia : dummy**



**BE: flat**  
**AE: apartment**  
**Australia :unit**



**BE: shops**  
**AE: grocery stores**  
**Australia :supermarkets**



**BE: biscuits**  
**AE: cookies**  
**Australia : biccy**



**BE: sweets**  
**AE: candy**  
**Australia : lollies**



**BE: downtown**  
**AE: city center**  
**Australia : CBD**



**BE: swimming costumes**  
**AE: swimming suits**  
**Australia : swimmers**



**BE: pepper**  
**AE: bell pepper**  
**Australia : capsicum**

What differences can be found between the BE ,AE and Aus E?

Will such differences be barriers in their communication?

Differences	British English	American English	Australian English
<b>Pronunciation</b>	Without obvious [r]	With obvious [r]	With obvious [r]
<b>Spelling</b>	biscuit	cookies	Very unique; simpler
<b>Intonation</b>	Oh! My God.	More various	More various

**Diff** Such differences can cause some misunderstandings in their communication but they can clear it up.

## Activity 4: Role-play and Read the conversation.

Martin: Hey, Zhou Wei, do you want to go shopping? There's a sale at my favourite store.

Zhou Wei: Oh, yes! I really need to buy some pants.

Martin: Pants? That's funny. I don't usually go shopping with my friends for pants.

Zhou Wei: You don't? Don't you like to have somebody tell you if the pants look good or no

Martin: Er... Not really ... Hey, wait, do you mean trousers—what you and I are wearing on our legs right now?

Zhou Wei: **What misunderstanding has happened?** American English, isn't it?

Martin: Yes, it is! I knew what you meant, by the way. I was just joking with you. Did you know that in British English, "pants" means something very different?

Zhou Wei: Really? So what does it mean?

Martin: In British English, the word "pants" means underwear. ...

In American English, "*pants*" refers to *trousers*. But the word "pants" means *underwear* in British English.

**What kind of interesting misunderstandings will happen in their communication?**

**How can we clear it up?**

**Ask for clarification(解释澄清).**

# Find out the expressions to ask for clarification.



Martin: Zhou Wei, do you want to go shopping? There's a sale at my favourite store.

**Confusion**

Zhou Wei: I really need to buy some pants.

Martin: Pants? That's funny. I don't usually go shopping with my friends for pants.



**You don't?**

Zhou Wei: Don't you like to have somebody tell you if the pants look good or not?

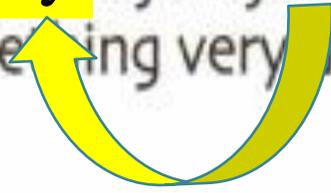
Martin: Er... Not really ... Hey, wait, do you mean trousers—what you and I are wearing on our legs right now?

Zhou Wei: Oh, yes. **That's what I mean by pants.** It's American English.

**Clarification**

Martin: Yes, it is! **I knew what you mean by the way.** I was just joking with you. Did you know that in British English, "pants" means something very different?

**Really? What does it mean?**



Martin: In British English, the word "pants" means underwear. ...

**More expressions for clarification:**

Do you mean...?

I'm sorry. Would you mind repeating...?

I beg your pardon.

So am I right in saying...?

So what you're really saying is...



**Assignment: make a conversation Role-play**

**1. Choose one or two pairs of words in Activities 3 and make a conversation. Use the expressions for clarification.**





**AE: Mickey D's**  
**Australia :Mac's**



**BE: shops**  
**AE: grocery stores**  
**Australia :supermarkets**



**BE: downtown**  
**AE: city center**  
**Australia : CBD**



**BE: bathroom**  
**AE: restroom**  
**Australia : dummy**



**BE: biscuits**  
**AE: cookies**  
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**BE: swimming costumes**  
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**BE: sweets**  
**AE: candy**  
**Australia : lollies**



**BE: pepper**  
**AE: bell pepper**  
**Australia : capsicum**

## Possible Example:

**The misunderstandings caused by the differences between AE & BE.**

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## Possible dialogue

**Martin:** Hey, Zhou Wei, do you want to go shopping? There's a sale at my favorite store.

**Zhou Wei:** Oh, yes! I really want to buy some books.

**Martin:** Really? I know there is a bookshop on the first floor.

**Zhou Wei:** **I beg your pardon.** Is the bookshop on the first floor?  
But I know it is on the second floor.

**Martin:** **I know what you meant.** That's American English, isn't it?

**Zhou Wei:** Yes, **am I right in saying** that?

**Martin:** Of course, they have the same meaning.

**Zhou Wei:** So, let's go .

