

## Spotlight on Standard American English and Standard British English



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## SPOTLIGHT ON STANDARD AMERICAN ENGLISH AND STANDARD BRITISH ENGLISH

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GRIN Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 36 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.5in. x 0.1in. Seminar paper from the year 2007 in the subject English - Grammar, Style, Working Technique, grade: 1, 3, Free University of Berlin (Fachbereich Englisch), course: Sociolinguistics and Varieties of English II , language: English, abstract: Throughout the 20th century, Standard British English (hereafter BrE) and Standard American English (hereafter AmE) made up the two reference varieties of the English language. Even today - in the 21st century - BrE and AmE represent a large proportion of all native speakers of English (83 per cent) Svartvik and Leech 2006: 150 in the world. The reason why these two varieties have acquired such a prestigious position among many other varieties of English is that in Great Britain and in the United States - two of the most influential nations of the 20th century in terms of political power and economical strength - English has been institutionalised longer than anywhere else Cheshire 1991: 13. Consequently, BrE and AmE provided the chief native-speaker models which non-native speaking teachers of English Svartvik and Leech 2006: 150 aim to instil. Although both reference varieties of English seem to be very much the same at first sight, British and American English undoubtedly are different, and Englishmen and Americans undoubtedly know it. Partridge and Clark 1951: 308. Closer investigations reveal that AmE is different from BrE at levels of phonetics, phonology, grammar, lexis and spelling. Whereas the fields of pronunciation and lexis definitely share the most prominent and numerous differences between AmE and BrE, the field of spelling shows only a couple of minor differences. Today, the vast majority of English lexis is spelled the same in AmE and BrE. However - to a certain extent - there are some characteristic spelling differences between...



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