Divided by a common language

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
PRE-INTERMEDIATE | A2-B1

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Match each British word with its American equivalent.

1 flat ____	**a** apartment
2 lorry ____	**b** truck
3 biscuit ____	**c** cookie
4 holiday ____	**d** vacation
5 chips ____	**e** fries
6 trousers ____	**f** pants
7 rubbish ____	**g** garbage
8 lift ____	**h** elevator

2 Choose the British or American word to match the country given.

1 (British) flat / apartment
2 (American) lorry / truck
3 (British) holiday / vacation
4 (American) biscuit / cookie
5 (British) trousers / pants
6 (American) rubbish / garbage
7 (British) lift / elevator
8 (American) chips / fries

3 Complete the descriptions with words from the box.

apartment | biscuit | cookie | flat | holiday | lorry | trousers | vacation

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British speaker: She lives in a 1 _____ and is going on
2 _____ next week. She had a 3 _____ with her tea.
American speaker: She lives in an 4 _____ and is planning a
5 _____ next month. She ate a chocolate 6 _____.
Note: In the UK, a 7 _____ carries goods; drivers also wear
8 _____, not pants (which mean underwear in British English!).

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4 Match each word with its meaning in the OTHER dialect (a false friend).

1 pants (British) ____	**a** fries
2 pants (American) ____	**b** underwear
3 chips (British) ____	**c** trousers
4 chips (American) ____	**d** crisps

5 Read the text. Write T (true) or F (false).

A confusing conversation

An American visiting London asked for chips with his meal, expecting thin, crispy fries. Instead, he received thick-cut chips, what Americans would call fries. Later, he was confused when his British friend mentioned putting rubbish in the lift to take it downstairs, until he realised 'lift' meant elevator and 'rubbish' meant garbage.

1 The American expected thin, crispy fries. T / F

2 He received exactly what he expected. T / F

3 'Lift' means elevator in British English. T / F

4 'Rubbish' means garbage in British English. T / F

5 The two speakers spoke completely different languages. T / F

6 The conversation was confusing at times. T / F

6 Complete the sentences with the correct preposition (in, on, to, for).

1 She lives _____ a flat.

2 They are going _____ holiday.

3 He asked _____ chips.

4 Take the lift _____ the third floor.

OVER TO YOU

Write a 70-90 word short story about a misunderstanding between a British and an American speaker, using at least six words that differ between dialects.

[ ] Use at least six British/American word pairs. [ ] Use past tenses accurately. [ ] Keep the story clear and fun.

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ANSWER KEY

1 British/American matches

1 a 2 b 3 c 4 d 5 e 6 f 7 g 8 h

2 Choose the correct word

1 flat 2 truck 3 holiday 4 cookie 5 trousers 6 garbage 7 lift 8 fries

3 Descriptions

1 flat 2 holiday 3 biscuit 4 apartment 5 vacation 6 cookie 7 lorry 8 trousers

4 False friends

1 b 2 c 3 a 4 d

5 Reading

1 T
2 F - he received thick-cut chips.
3 T
4 T
5 F - both spoke English.
6 T

6 Prepositions

1 in 2 on 3 for 4 to

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check clear organisation, accurate forms and natural dialect words.