

And where were you on this particular day? (Vocabulary)

Description: British and American English

Use with or after: *English Network Certificate Skills*, Unit 3.

Skill: Vocabulary

Focus: Students change a British text to make it seem more American, or visa versa.

Time: 15 minutes

Preparation:

- Print out the second and third pages of this file.
- Make enough copies so that each student can have one of the two worksheets.

Procedure:

- Divide the class into two groups, A and B, on opposite sides of the room. Give each person in group A a copy of the American text, and each person in group B a copy of the British text.
- Students work together with others from their own group to make the American text look and sound more British, or the British text look and sound more American.
- Some (but not all) of these differences have been introduced in the various volumes of the *English Network* series. Tell the students they cannot expect to know all of these differences, but should fill in as many as they can.
- Students find a new partner from the other group, and compare their texts. The words that group A was supposed to write are the crossed-out words in group B's text, and visa versa.
- Ask the students if they remember where they were and what they were doing on 11 September 2001.

Group A

This is an American text. Please change it to make it look and sound more British. The changes could involve spelling, punctuation, grammar or vocabulary. Then compare with someone from the other group. They have the same text, but the other way around

Did _____ I ever tell _____ you about the day I got stuck in an ~~elevator~~ _____? It was a ~~gray~~ _____ day in the ~~fall~~ _____ of 2001. I was living in a small ~~row~~ _____ house at the time, and I had just returned from my summer ~~vacation~~ _____ in the mountains.

I remember that I ~~vacuumed~~ _____ all the carpets that morning before I got into my car to drive ~~downtown~~ _____. On my way I had to stop at the ~~gas~~ _____ station because one of my ~~tires~~ _____ was low on air, and then I went to a ~~store~~ _____ to buy a few ~~cans~~ _____ of vegetables for my ~~neighbor~~ _____, who was ~~sick~~ _____ and couldn't go shopping. Then I stopped at the ~~railroad~~ _____ station, where I had to ~~stand in line~~ _____ to buy a ticket for the next day. Finally I got to my bank, where I had an appointment to see ~~Mr.~~ _____ Schulz on the fifth floor. The people in the ~~elevator~~ _____ were all very worried when it stopped between two floors.

"Don't worry," I said. "I'm sure they'll get this ~~straightened~~ _____ out before long." One woman said: "I'll be late to the beauty ~~parlor~~ _____!" Another woman had a small radio in her ~~purse~~ _____. She turned it on, and then I understood why they were all so worried. The twin towers of the World Trade ~~Center~~ _____ in New York were on fire. It was ~~September 11~~, _____ 2001.



Group B

This is a British text. Please change it to make it look and sound more American. The changes could involve spelling, punctuation, grammar or vocabulary. Then compare with someone from the other group. They have the same text, but the other way round

_____ .

Have _____ I ever ~~told~~ _____ you about the day I got stuck in a ~~lift~~ _____ ? It was a ~~grey~~ _____ day in the ~~autumn~~ _____ of 2001. I was living in a small ~~terraced~~ _____ house at the time, and I had just returned from my summer ~~holiday~~ _____ in the mountains.

I remember that I ~~hoovered~~ _____ all the carpets that morning before I got into my car to drive ~~to the city centre~~ _____. On my way I had to stop at the ~~petrol~~ _____ station because one of my ~~tyres~~ _____ was low on air, and then I went to a ~~shop~~ _____ to buy a few ~~tins~~ _____ of vegetables for my ~~neighbour~~ _____, who was ~~ill~~ _____ and couldn't go shopping. Then I stopped at the ~~railway~~ _____ station, where I had to ~~queue~~ _____ to buy a ticket for the next day. Finally I got to my bank, where I had an appointment to see ~~Mr~~ _____ Schulz on the fifth floor.

The people in the ~~lift~~ _____ were all very worried when it stopped between two floors.

“Don't worry,” I said. “I'm sure they'll get this ~~sorted~~ _____ out before long.”

One woman said: “I'll be late to the beauty ~~salon~~ _____ !”

Another woman had a small radio in her ~~handbag~~ _____. She turned in on, and then I understood why they were all so worried. The twin towers of the World Trade Centre _____ in New York were on fire. It was ~~11-September~~ _____ 2001.

