

Re: What are the basic differences between British and American English?

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- *From:* Harlan Messinger <[hmessinger.removethis@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:hmessinger.removethis@xxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Tue, 25 Jul 2006 12:11:53 -0400
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Richard Herring wrote:

In message <486cc2dlmegt28ph5nbt9ap49asfu6cnv@xxxxxxx>, Mark <mark@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> writes

On Tue, 25 Jul 2006 13:55:09 +0100, Richard Herring <junk@[127.0.0.1]> wrote:

Which parts of Britain are not in the U.K.?

Britain constitutes the territories of the British Crown.

Thank you for playing. "Britain" is a geographical entity. "Great Britain" is a political one.

Other way round, surely!

Both ways, if you try hard enough.

As you say, we're technically the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. 'Great Britain' has no political sense as such.

Tell that to those who drafted the Act of Union 1707:

"That the two kingdoms of Scotland and England shall, upon the 1st day of May next ensuing the date hereof, and for ever after, be united into one kingdom by the name of Great Britain,..."

Re: What are the basic differences between British and American English?

That's what it was \*then\*, and it was in the name only insofar as it was literally descriptive: the kingdom came to cover the full extent of the island of Great Britain. In 1801, after Ireland was annexed, the name of the kingdom changed because now it covered both islands: "the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland".