BBC Learning English
Quiznet
American English

1. In British English it's a pavement. In American it's a _____.
a) sidewinder
b) side saddle
c) sidewalk
d) side order

2. "That new play that opened in the local theatre last weekend bombed!" What's the meaning of bombed in American English?
a) It has been a tremendous success.
b) It has been a tremendous failure.
c) The cast is too large to fit on the stage.
d) The cast is so small it's not worth seeing.

3. The American term 'slugfest' comes from German and means:
a) A lot of slugs get together in the garden
b) A boxing match with a lot of punching
c) Whipped cream on top of coffee
d) A place where parties happen

4. The American term 'adobe' refers to:
a) a style of outdoor painting
b) a sun dried tomato
c) a sun drenched plateau
d) a sun dried brick

5. In American English it's an 'elevator'. In British English it's a _____.
a) lift
b) hoist
c) joist
d) escalator

6. At a bus stop, the British form a queue. Americans _____.
a) stand at line
b) stand in line
c) make a queue
d) form a file

ANSWERS:

1. In British English it's a pavement. In American it's a _____.

a) sidewinder - Sorry. A sidewinder is a snake. Please try again.
b) side saddle - Sorry. You ride side saddle on a horse if you don't face forwards. Please try again.
c) sidewalk - Well done! American pedestrians walk down the sidewalk.
d) side order - Sorry. You can order a side order -fries, a salad - with a main course. Please try again.

2. "That new play that opened in the local theatre last weekend bombed!" What's the meaning of bombed in American English?

a) It has been a tremendous success - Sorry. In British English you can say that a performance is going like a bomb, meaning going very well. Please try again.
b) It has been a tremendous failure - Well done! If a play bombs it is unpopular and very few people go to watch it.
c) The cast is too large to fit on the stage - Sorry. This is not the correct answer. Please try again.
d) The cast is so small it's not worth seeing - Sorry. This is not the correct answer. Please try again.

3. The American term 'slugfest' comes from German and means:

a) A lot of slugs get together in the garden - Sorry. The word slug as garden pest is not the same as slug from German 'schlagen' meaning hit. Please try again.
b) A boxing match with a lot of punching - Well done! A slugfest is a fight with a lot of punches.
c) Whipped cream on top of coffee - Sorry. The German word for this is Schlagsahne. Please try again.
d) A place where parties happen – Sorry this is wrong. The German word 'fest' meaning festival is used in some English terms like Glasgow's Mayfest. Please try again.

4. The American term 'adobe' refers to:

a) a style of outdoor painting - Sorry. If you daub paint on something you spread it carelessly. Please try again.
b) a sun dried tomato - Sorry. 'adobe' does not mean sun dried tomato. Please try again.
c) a sun drenched plateau - Sorry. 'adobe' does not mean sun drenched plateau. Please try again.
d) a sun dried brick - Well done! Adobe houses are found in south west USA.

5. In American English it's an 'elevator'. In British English it's a _____.

a) lift -- Well done! In British English it's 'lift', in American English 'elevator'.
b) hoist -- Sorry. A hoist is a piece of machinery for lifting heavy things. Please try again.
c) joist - Sorry. A joist is a piece of wood or metal which holds up a roof. Please try again.
d) escalator - Sorry. An escalator is a moving staircase. Please try again.

6. At a bus stop, the British form a queue. Americans _____.

a) stand at line - Sorry. We don't say stand at line. Please try again.
b) stand in line - Well done! Americans stand in line while waiting for a bus.
c) make a queue - Sorry. We don't say "make a queue". Please try again.
d) form a file - Sorry. When a group of people file somewhere they walk behind each other. Please try again.

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http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/quizzes/quiznet/quiz120.shtml