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United States for US

ENGLISH is one language that unites the whole world. But it's also the language that separates England from America.

American English is a world apart from British English, the former outwitting the latter. Americans have coined words which reflect not only practicality but also do away with unnecessary alphabets in words and cleansing the gender bias.

□ What do we call the season in which leaves fall? Undoubtedly, it's **autumn**. But the word doesn't suggest falling leaves which is what autumn is all about. So the Americans termed it '**fall**', suggesting the action of leaves.

□ What happens if a pin pricks a tyre? The tyre gets '**punctured**'. In America, it goes '**flat**' because the tyre assumes a flat position from the bottom.

□ When many people stand one after the other, we call the line '**queue**'. Americans simply term it '**line**'!

□ In India and Britain, there is a room in the house termed '**drawing room**' despite the fact that we don't draw in that room. So why term it so? Why not term it the American way: '**Living room**' as we live in that room?

□ When we need to wipe off something written with a pencil/pen, we use a '**rubber**'. But a 'rubber' is not the right word for erasing as even chappals, tyres and toys are made of rubber. So why not call it '**eraser**' when the action it does is of erasing?

□ What we call '**pavement**', Americans know as '**sidewalk**', suggesting the action and the place in the word it-

self.

Although this may be termed trivial, words make life simpler. See how:

ENGLISH	AMERICAN
shaking hands	pressing the flesh
pram	carriage
clastoplast	band-aid
chemist	druggist
trunk call	long - distance call
fortnight	two weeks
lift	elevator

There are certain words in English so spelt that when one of the alphabets is removed, the pronunciation remains the same.

The Americans have identified those words and done away with them for example...

ENGLISH	AMERICAN
Glycerine	Glycerin
Programme	Program
Faggot	Fagot
Colour	Color
Humour	Humor
Tumour	Tumor
Rumour	Rumor
Honour	Honor
Behaviour	Behavior

How often have we used the word 'mankind' ignoring that women also exist? The earlier words were male-oriented because the society was male-dominated. But now it's not so.

People all over the world have realised that it is better to address the entire human race collectively rather than distinguish between the two sexes.

OLD ENGLISH	AMERICAN
Mankind	Humankind
Manhours	Work hours
Manmade	Artificially made
Businessman	Business person
Spokesman	Spokesperson
Workman	Workperson
Fireman	Fire fighter

Americans have not only respected the gender equality but also given decent words to harsh sounding words. For example:

physically challenged for the disabled, **mentally challenged** or **special needs person** instead of mentally retarded.

Then there are some words for which the Americans have their own terms. See the list below:

ENGLISH	AMERICAN
Toffee	Candy
holiday	vacation
Crazy	Nut
flat	apartment
Petrol	Gasoline
biscuit	cookie
Mohey	Dough
Friend	Pal
Family	Folks
Coins	Chips
Nonsense	Piffle
Gallery	Balcony
Sillyman	Goof
Nappy	Diaper
Unattractive	Drip
Mackintosh	Raincoat
Underground	Subways

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