Canadian English

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Canadian English (CaE) is a variety of English used in Canada. More than 25 million Canadians (85 per cent of the population) have some knowledge of English (2001 census). Canadian English spelling can be described as a mixture of American English, British English, Quebec French, and unique Canadianisms. Canadian vocabulary is similar to American English, yet with key differences and local variations.

History

The term “Canadian English” is first attested in a speech by the Rev. A. Constable Gelke in an address to Canadian Institute in 1857. Gelke, a Scottish born Canadian, reflected the Anglo-centric attitude prevalent in Canada for the next hundred years when he referred to the language as “a corrupt dialect.” In comparison he considered the proper English spoken by immigrants from Britain.

Canadian English is the product of four waves of immigration and settlement over a period of almost two centuries. The first wave began with early English-speaking settlement in Canada, and linguistically the important was the influx of British Loyalists fleeing the American Revolution, chiefly from the middle Atlantic states. The second wave from Britain and Ireland was encouraged to settle in Canada after the War of 1812 by the governors of Canada, who were worried about anti-English sentiment among its citizens. Waves of immigration from around the globe peaked in 1910 and 1960, yet for years there were English-speaking settlers in Canada even before widespread settlement took place. The Canadian English had a strong influence on European languages or Canada even before widespread settlement took place. The Canadian English had a strong influence on European languages.

Spelling

Canadian spelling of the English language combines British and American rules. Most notably, French-derived words that in American English end with -or and -er, such as color or center, usually retain British spellings and centres, although American spellings are not uncommon. Also, while the U.S. uses the Anglo-French defense (noun), Canada uses the British spelling defence. (The spelling defensive is universal, as is true of offensive). In other cases, Canadians and Americans stand at odds with British spelling such as nouns like tire and curb, which in British English are spelled tyre and kerb.

Like American English, Canadian English prefers -ise spellings whenever British usage allows both -ise (the Cambridge model) and -ize spellings (the Oxford model) (e.g., realize, recognize). However, some of the 26 parts of the Air transport of Canada, e.g., Air Policy, refer to a compromised Cambridge model; e.g., instead of tyers, but organisational rather than organizational.

Canadian spelling rules can be partly explained by Canada’s trade history. For instance, the British spelling word cheque probably relates to Canada’s once-important ties to British financial institutions. Canada’s automotive industry, on the other hand, has been dominated by American firms from its inception, explaining why Car can be used in general speaking of tire and American terminology for the parts of automobiles.

A contemporary reference for formal Canadian spelling is the spelling used for Hansard transcripts of the Parliament of Canada. Many Canadian editors, though, use the Canadian Oxford Dictionary, 2nd ed. (Tor. Oxford University Press, 2004), often along with the chapter on spelling in Editing Canadian English, and, necessary (depending on context) one or more other references. (See the section “Further reading.”)
Phonology

- Canadian raising is found throughout Canada, including much of the Atlantic Provinces. It is the set in the Inland region, and is receding in younger speakers in Lower Mainland BC, as well as certain parts of Ontario. Canadian raising raises diphthongs before voicingless consonants.
- Speakers do not distinguish between the open-mid back rounded vowel [o] and open back unrounded vowel [o].
- Traditionally diphthongal vowels such as [o] in boat and [e] in bat, have qualities much closer to monophthongal vowels in some speakers especially in the Inland region.
- /-oa/ and /-a/ are pronounced back.
- /-u/ is fronted after coronals.
- -er is tense before velar stops.
- Words such as borrow, sorry or tomorrow are realized as [-o], rather than [-o-].
- The Canadian Shift is the defining feature of all of Canada except for the Atlantic Provinces. It is found in the Inland region, as well as the periphery areas as far down as Vancouver, and is not widely used in the Atlantic Provinces. It is a chain shift triggered by the cot-caught merger. The vowels in the words "cot" and "caught" to [kot] and "caught" to [kot] then "cot" and "caught" are both shifted towards [kot].
- The /ei/ of bat is retracted to [æ] the /it/ in then shifts to the /æ/ in bet.

Maritimer-specific Phonology

The phonology of Maritimer English has some unique features:

- The /-i/- /-e/ distinction in foreign loan words is pronounced as /-i/.
- Been is pronounced by many speakers as /bæn/ rather than /bən/.
- Words such as fragile, fertile, and mobile are pronounced as /fræl/ and /fəl/.
- Words such as fragile, fertile, and mobile are not widely used, although the /æ/ of bat and /æ/ of rat are not fronted to [æ].
- Pre-consonantal /e/ is realized as /æ/.
- Pre-consonantal /æ/ is pronounced /æ/.
- The pronunciation of some words is often similar to the pronunciation in the United States. A specific example is holiday, which is pronounced as /holədi/ in the United States and /hələdi/ in Canada.

Vocabulary

Comparison of Canadian, British, and American lexicons

Where Canadian English shares vocabulary with other English dialects, it tends to share most with American English; many terms in standard Canadian English are, shared with Britain, are not used in the United States. In some cases British and the speakers of General American English pronounce the /tʃ/ as /ʃ/ and /s/ as /z/.

As a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, Canada shares many items of institutional terminology with the countries of the former British Empire (for example, "police" for "police officer" in the United Kingdom) and Canada is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations. Canada shares many items of institutional terminology with the countries of the former British Empire (for example, "police" for "police officer" in the United Kingdom).
property of their respective authors and we thank them for giving us the opportunity to share for free to students, teachers and users of the Web their texts will used only for illustrative educational and scientific purposes only. The English Language. English belongs to the Indo-European family of languages. A family of languages is a group of languages which have enough in common in their

CÉGEP in Quebec. In Canada a "college student" might denote someone obtaining a diploma in business management while "university student" is the term for someone earning a bachelor's degree. For that reason "going to college" does not have the same meaning as "going to university," unless the speaker clarifies the specific level of post-secondary education that is meant.

Units of measurement

Adoption of metric units is more advanced in Canada than in the U.S. due to governmental efforts during the Trudeau era. Official measurements are generally given in metric, including highway speeds and distance volume and consumption, and weather measurements. However, it is not uncommon for Canadians to use Imperial units such as pounds, feet, and inches to measure their bodies; cups, teaspoons, and tabletop kitchen; and (with older generations) miles for distances. The term "kilometres" is sometimes used interchangeably with "miles.

The price of gasoline – the American English term is preferred over petrol – requires some awkward trans between Canadian and American figures. Even before the metrication efforts of the Trudeau era, the Canadian dollar translation "dollars per gallon" required not only replacing Canadian vs. American currencies but also a conversion between Imperial (4.546 L) vs. U.S. (3.785 L) gallons. It is common to express the rate of gas consumption as miles rather than kilometres. Despite the typical notation of gas volumes in litres, Olders residents may also use the unit "miles per Imperial gallon" vs. "miles per U.S. gallon" instead of the international "litres per 100 km." A rare "kilometres per litre" is sometimes used as a substitute that can be viewed as "metrified" but not strictly SI.

Transportation

Although Canadian lexicon features both railway and railroad, railway is the usual term (witness Can National Railway and Canadian Pacific Railway); most rail terminology in Canada, however, follows American usage (e.g., "cars and cars rather than sleepers and wagons; although railway employees themselves say "sleepers." A two way ticket can be either a round-trip (American term) or a return (British term). The terms "highway" (e.g. Trans-Canada Highway), expressway (Central Canada, as in the Gardiner Expressway) and freeways are used to describe a high speed, limited access road. The British term r is not used.

Politics

The term Tory, used in Britain with a similar meaning, denotes a supporter of the federal Conserv of Canada, the historic Progressive Conservative Party of Canada or a provincial Progressive Conservative party; the U.S. use of "Tory" to mean the Loyalists in the time of the American Revolution is unknown in Canada, where they are called United Empire Loyalists. A Red Tory is someone who emphasizes the communitarian aspects of the conservative tradition, si the welfare state and is skeptical of capitalism. Cf. The British term Wet Tory. A Blue Tory is a conservative emphasizing free enterprise, free trade, low taxes and devolution of power to the provinces. Cf. The British term Dry Tory.

Grits refers to politicians representing the Liberal Party of Canada. Dipper refers to members of the New Democratic Party and is more disparaging than colloquialisms. To table a document in Canada is to present it (as in Britain), whereas in the U.S. it means to withdraw from consideration. Several political terms are uniquely Canadian, including riding (as a general term for a parliamentary constituency or electoral district). A distinction is made between "liberal," which refers to a tradition of political thought advocating indiv liberty and economic and social equality, and "Liberal," which refers to the Liberal Party of Canada or a provincial Liberal party. This is the same as the distinction in American English between "democratic describing representative government, and "Democratic," pertaining to the party that opposes the Republicans.

Law

Lawyers in all parts of Canada, except Quebec with its own civil law system, are called "barristers and solicitors" because any lawyer licensed in any of the common law provinces and territories is permitted to engage in specific types of legal practice which are separated in other common-law jurisdictions such as England, Ireland, some Australian states, and Hong Kong. Yet the words lawyer and counsel are used predom in everyday contexts, although the American term attorney is sometimes encountered.

As in England, the equivalent of an American lawyer is called a lawyer (in Ontario), counsel (in British Columbia), crown prosecutor or the crown. The words advocate and notary – two distinct professions in civil law Quebec – are used to refer to that or equivalent of barrister and solicitor, respectively. In Canada’s common-law provinces and territories, the w notary means strictly a notary public.

Within the Canadian legal community itself, the words solicitor is often used to refer to any Canadian lawyer general (much like the way the word attorney is used in the United States to refer to any American lawyer general). Despite the conceptual distinction between barrister and solicitor, Canadian court documents contain a phrase such as "John Smith, solicitor for the Plaintiff" even though "John Smith" may well himself barrister who argues the case in court. In a letter introducing him/herself to an opposing lawyer, a Canadian lawyer normally writes something like "I am the solicitor for Mr. Tom Jones." The word barrister is also used by lawyers to refer to barrister who specializes in lawsuits even though more traditional word barrister is still employed to denote the same specialization.

The word attorney is ordinarily used in Canada to mean:

- a person who has been granted power of attorney;
- a lawyer who prosecutes criminal cases on behalf of the government, i.e. crown attorney;
- an American lawyer with whom a Canadian lawyer is interacting regarding a cross-border transactio legal case; or
- an American lawyer who works in Canada and advises Canadian clients on issues of American law.

As in England, a serious crime is called an indictable offence, while a less-serious crime is called a summary offence. The older words felonies and misdemeanors, which are still used in the United States, are not used in Canada’s current Criminal Code (R.S., 1985, c. C-46 ) or by today’s Canadian legal system. As noted thre the Criminal Code, a person accused of a crime is called the accused and not the defendant, a term used in civil lawsuits.

Household items

Terms common in Canada, Britain, and Ireland but not in the U.S. are:

- Tin (as in “tin of tuna”) for cans, especially among older speakers. Among younger speakers, “can” is common, with “tin” referring to a can which is wider than it is tall.
- Cutlery for silverware or flatware.
- Serviette for a table napkin.
- Tap, conspicuously more common than faucet in everyday usage.

Food and beverage

Most Canadians as well as Americans in the Northwest, North Central, and Inland North prefer pop or soda to refer to a carbonated beverage. (But neither term is dominant in British English; see further.)
A rubber in the U.S. and Canada is slang for a condom; however, in Canada it is sometimes another term eraser (as it is in the United Kingdom) and, in the plural, for overalls or galoshes.

The terms butter and soaker refer to getting water in one’s shoe. The former is generally more common in prairies, the latter in the rest of Canada.

The word bum can refer either to the buttocks (as in Britain), or, derogatorily, to a homeless person (as in U.S.). However, the “buttocks” sense does not have the indecent character it retains in British and Australian use, as it is commonly used as a polite or childish euphemism for ruder terms such as butt, arse (common in Atlantic Canada and among older people in Ontario and to the west), or ass (more idiomatic among you people west of the Ottawa River).

**Grammar**

- The name of the letter Z is normally the Anglo-European (and French) zed; the American zee is not in Canada, but it is often stigmatized.
- When writing, Canadians will start a sentence with as well, in the sense of “in addition.”
- The word hospital can be used either with (American usage) or without (British usage) an article after preposition (e.g., to the hospital vs. to in hospital). In writing, the article tends to be omitted (exampe to the hospital).

**Miscellaneous**

- The code appended to mail addresses (the equivalent of the British postcode and the American ZIP called a postal code.
- Although the American World War I and World War II are popular in Canadian public use, they are considered substandard in some Canadian academic circles, which prefer First World War (or the Great War) and Second World War.

**Words mainly used in Canadian English**

Main article: Glossary of Canadian English words

Canadian English has words or expressions not found, or not widely used, in other variants of English. Additionally, like other dialects of English that exist in proximity to francophones, French loanwords have entered Canadian English.

**Regional vocabularies**

**Newfoundland**

Main article: Newfoundland English

The dialect spoken in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, an autonomous dominion until March 1, 1934, is often considered the most distinctive Canadian dialect. Some Newfoundland English differs in vowel pronunciation, morphology, syntax, and preservation of archaic adverbial intensifiers. The dialect can vary markedly from community to community, as well as from region to region, reflecting ethnic origin as well as in which there were few roads and many communities, and fishing villages in particular remained very isolated.

**French influence on English spoken in Quebec**

Main article: Quebec English

- A person with English mother tongue and still speaking English as the first language is called an Anglophone. The corresponding term for a French speaker is Francophone and the corresponding term for a person who is neither Anglophone nor Francophone is Allephone. Anglophone and Francophone are New Brunswick, an officially bilingual province.
- Quebec Anglophones generally pronounce French street names in Montreal as French words. Pie IX Boulevard is pronounced as in French (pi-eh-neu-), not as “pie nine.” On the other hand, Anglophone pronounce final /s/, as in Bernard and Bouchard.

**Chinook Jargon words in British Columbia and Yukon**

Main article: Chinook Jargon in West/Central Canadian English

British Columbia English has several words still in current use borrowed from the Chinook Jargon. Most are widely used, in other variants of English.

**Toronto**

The English spoken in Toronto has some similarities with the English in the Northern U.S. Slang terms used in Toronto are synonymous with those used in other major North American cities. There is also a heavy influence of slang originating from Toronto’s many immigrant communities, of which the vast majority speak English only as a second or tertiary language. These terms originate mainly from various European, Asian and African languages.

Some Torontonians pronounce the name of their city as the elided “Trana” or “Tronno” (often with nasal alveolar flap instead of /N/).

**Dictionaries**

In 1998, Oxford University Press produced a Canadian English dictionary, after five years of lexicographic research, entitled The Oxford Canadian Dictionary. A second edition, retitled The Canadian Oxford Dictionary, published in 2004. It listed uniquely Canadian words and words borrowed from other languages, and surd spellings, such as whether colour or color was the most popular choice in common use.


**Notes**

1. ^ Chambers, p xi
2. ^ Chambers, p xi–xii
3. ^ AskOxford.com: Factors which shaped the varieties of English
4. ^ Chambers, p xi
5. ^ Labov, p 222
6. ^ Labov, p 68
7. ^ Labov, p 214
8. ^ Labov, p 222
9. ^ Labov, p 218

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