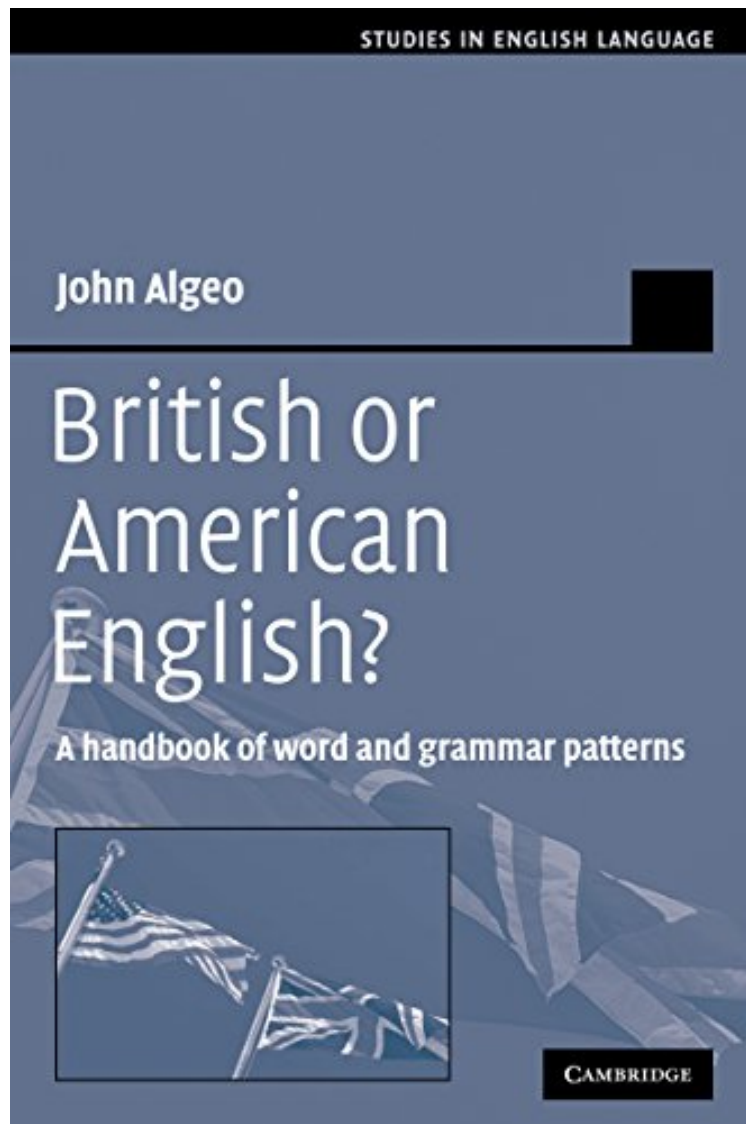


(Mobile book) British or American English?: A Handbook of Word and Grammar Patterns (Studies in English Language)

British or American English?: A Handbook of Word and Grammar Patterns (Studies in English Language)

Von John Algeo

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Produktinformation -Verkaufsrank: #452878 in eBooksVerffentlicht am: 2006-08-10Erscheinungsdatum: 2006-08-10File Name: B00QIT2V00 | File size: 79.Mb

Von John Algeo : British or American English?: A Handbook of Word and Grammar Patterns (Studies in English Language) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised British or American English?: A Handbook of Word and Grammar Patterns (Studies in English Language):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen4 von 4 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Very

convincing work, but you might find it more specialized than you expected. Von Florian von Savigny I was admittedly misled by the main title, and the information available on , and bought the book assuming that it dealt with all differences between British and American English (save for pronunciation, perhaps). Clever marketing, I am afraid. The subtitle, and the back cover text, give a more accurate description: the subject of this book is grammatical and, well, usage patterns. Who lives "on" a street, and who lives "in" a street? After "thank you", who says "Not at all", and who says "Your're welcome"? [both cited from the back cover] Thus, the book cannot serve as a reference about lexical differences (you won't find "lift" vs. "elevator", for instance). My second - slight - disappointment: The book describes British usage from an American point of view. Information about American usage often seems implicit in that, and occasionally, there even IS explicit information (i.e. when both usages are contrasted), but I would have found balanced descriptions to be clearly preferable. Mere frequency of use is always contrasted, however. Having said that, the book covers what it does cover in a very thorough and convincing way. Algeo begins sections with a general description and then goes on to cite a large number of examples. He seems to consistently avoid oversimplification (typical example, from Section 3.2.3, "Plural for mass noun": "Plural toasts 'toasted slices of bread' is 3 times more frequent in CIC British texts than in American."). Also, as far as grammar is concerned, the book does seem to cover EVERYTHING (cf. table of contents), even (and this must be emphasized) colloquial use, and is probably unparalleled in that. The bottom line: if you're looking for grammatical differences between BE and AE (can I say "the police has" in one or the other variety?), this book is a compelling resource. For simple vocabulary differences, and sometimes, explicit information about American usage, you would have to resort elsewhere. (Disclaimer: I am not a native English speaker, and have not checked whether my text is proper BE or AE. Or even proper English. (Not the book's fault.))

Kurzbeschreibung Speakers of British and American English display some striking differences in their use of grammar. In this detailed survey, John Algeo considers questions such as: Who lives on a street, and who lives in a street? Who takes a bath, and who has a bath? Who says Neither do I, and who says Nor do I? After 'thank you', who says Not at all and who says You're welcome? Whose team are on the ball, and whose team isn't? Containing extensive quotations from real-life English on both sides of the Atlantic, collected over the past twenty years, this is a clear and highly organized guide to the differences - and the similarities - between the grammar of British and American speakers. Written for those with no prior knowledge of linguistics, it shows how these grammatical differences are linked mainly to particular words, and provides an accessible account of contemporary English in use. Pressestimmen' no other book covers quite the same ground. It will be useful for lexicographers, translators, editors, and material writers, as well as linguists and researchers. Not least, it will provide many ideas for students who are beginning research into the varieties ' Journal of English Linguistics ber das Produkt This is a clearly organized guide to the differences - and similarities - between the grammar of British and American speakers of English. Assuming no prior knowledge of linguistics, and containing extensive quotations from real-life English on both sides of the Atlantic, it provides an accessible account of contemporary English in use.