

Understanding World English – Come Again?

Prepositions tend to be **killers** for non-native speakers of English. Even natives can hardly explain why you provide, for example, 'advice *on* a subject' and not 'advice *in* a subject'. We've just heard things said a certain way a million times since childhood and naturally know which preposition to choose.

If this isn't enough, at some point you realize that English comes in a wide variety – with the two main ones, British and American English – and a whole **host** of others, from South African English to Singapore English.

Just look at Microsoft Word's language checker – there are 18 versions of English to use!

Most people can recognize Australian English as its own distinct variant, but how about Indian English? For non-natives, trying to understand what someone is saying when that someone is speaking 'English' is a real challenge!

Unfortunately, there is no **singular** worldwide **body** regulating what is the correct form of English. This causes many non-natives certain **angst**, as '**trial and error**' is often the only way to **unearth** and master the differences.

All Brits know that 'per cent' is two words. Why? Because they've seen it this way since childhood. While for an American, this word is naturally just one: 'percent'. Fortunately, Brits and Americans pronounce it the same ... which can't be said for a **myriad** of other English words, the spelling of which often **defies** reason!

But **take heart** – it's not like native speakers necessarily understand each other. There's many a native English speaker who's **left in the dust** once the Scottish **brogue** starts to roll.

Glossary

angst	ahdistus
body	organisaatio
brogue	alueellinen aksentti
come again	anteeksi kuinka?
defy	vastustaa
host	joukko
killer	tässä: kompastuskivi
left in the dust	tässä: jäädä ihmettelemään
myriad	lukematon määrä
singular	yksittäinen
take heart	älä lannistu
trial and error	yritys ja erehdys
unearth	saada selville