

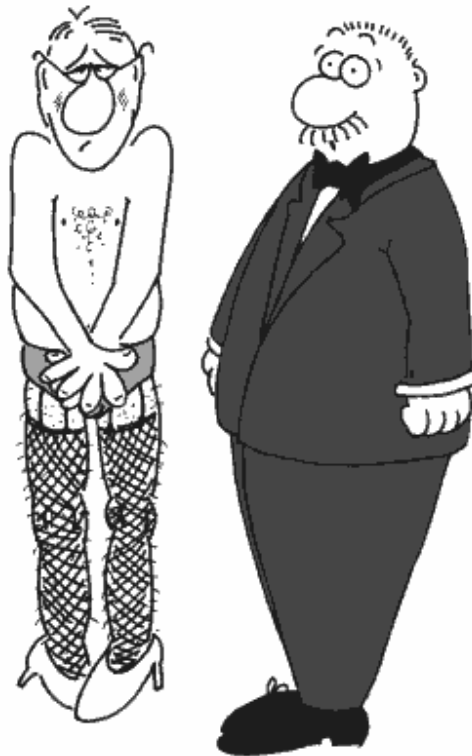
<http://www.effingpot.com/index.shtml> This website provides explanations of numerous British words and expressions with which Americans might be unfamiliar. Note that the vocabulary lists include some swearwords.

<http://esl.about.com/library/vocabulary/blbritam.htm>

A tool for converting American English words into their British English equivalents, and vice versa.

**Here are some examples you can find on the first website! If you do not understand some of them, don't hesitate to ask me in class!**

**Pants** - Don't make a comment about an Englishman's pants - they are his **underwear**! Same for ladies too, though *knickers* would be more common. We were in a pub in England one day when two attractive American girls walked in wearing quite short skirts and one loudly said to the other that she was cold and that she should have worn pants! Needless to say she instantly had the attention of every Englishman in the place, who thought there was nothing under her skirt!



Charles was sure Chuck has said  
pants and suspenders

**Pardon me** - This is very amusing for Brits in America. Most kids are taught to say "pardon me" if they fart in public or at the table etc. In America it has other meanings which take us Brits a while to figure out. I thought I was surrounded by people with flatulence problems!



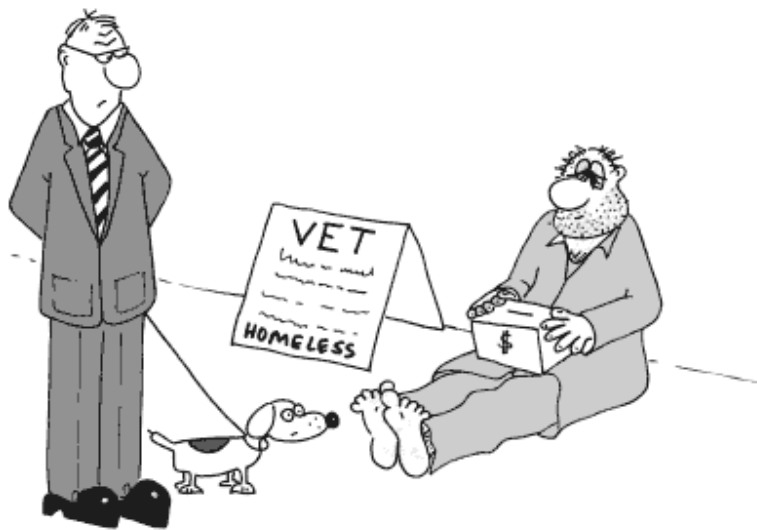
Charles was shocked at  
Chuck's personal problems

**Ring** - You would ring someone on the phone not **call** them, in the UK. Try saying "give me a ring" to the next Brit you meet. This does not work well in reverse. I asked someone in a shop to ring me up and he dragged me to the till and pulled my head across the scanner!



Chuck wasn't sure why Charles wanted to ring him up

**Vet** - In England, vets look after the health of our animals and pets. They are rarely seen loitering on street corners, begging for work or money. The first American who told me he was a vet heard all about my dog before he put me straight! Whoops! You call them **veterinarians** I believe.



Charles decided not to take his dog to the vet after all

**Garden** - Not the vegetable patch or the flower beds. The garden is the **yard**. I always wondered why my American friends thought it was odd that Brits spend so much of the summer sitting in the garden!



Chuck waited for Charles to join him in the garden

**White goods** - When you visit a British store that sells things for the home you will find a section for white goods. These are the electrical **appliances** that you have in your kitchen or utility room like fridges, freezers, washing machines and driers. The name is cunningly derived from their colour!



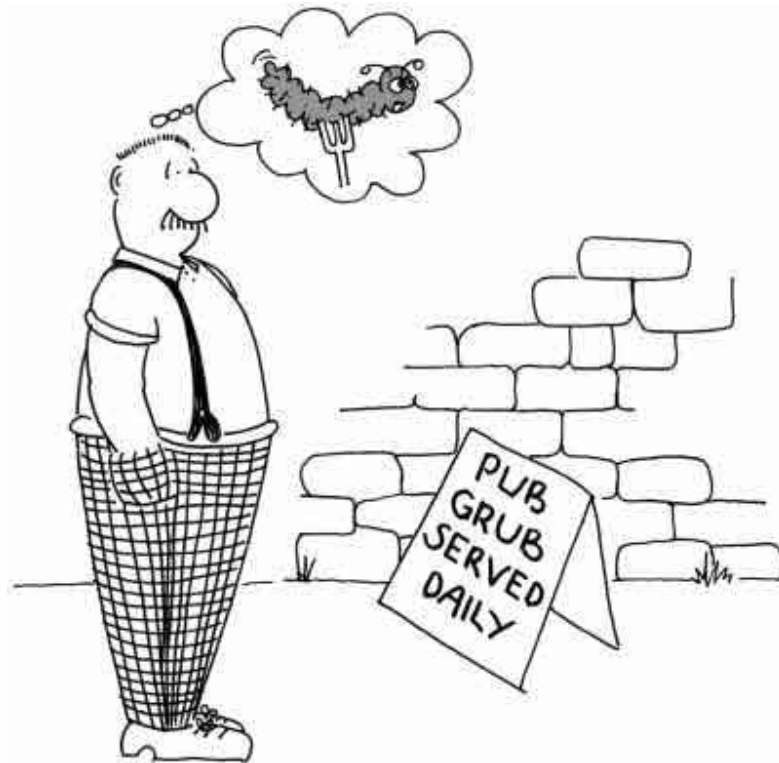
Chuck wondered what other colours were available



Chuck couldn't find a john in the bathroom

John means "toilet" in American English!

**Pub grub** - Pubs that do food will often advertise "pub grub" outside on a sign. It just means **pub food**. These days lots of pubs do decent food, not just sausage, egg and chips! Useful when travelling around the UK as we don't have restaurants lining the streets like so much of the US.



Chuck was nervous about trying the grub