

UK AND US PRONUNCIATION

B1-B2 | Teens / Adults | Awareness / Reference

The **same word** can sound different in British and American English.
These are common models, not rules for every speaker.

WORD	COMMON UK	COMMON US
tomato	/tə'mɑ:təʊ/ Stressed vowel: /ɑ:/ or /eɪ/.	/tə'meɪtoʊ/
Z (letter)	zed /zed/ Letter name only: the /z/ sound in words is the same.	zee /zi:/
zebra	/'zebrə/ UK also accepts /'zi:brə/.	/'zi:brə/
vitamin	/'vɪtəmin/ First vowel: /ɪ/ or /aɪ/.	/'vaɪtəmin/
schedule	/'ʃedju:l/ Common starts: /ʃ/ or /sk/.	/'skedʒu:l/
route	/ru:t/ US accepts both: "root" and "rowt".	/ru:t/ or /raʊt/
herb	/hɜ:b/ Usually /h/ in UK; usually silent h in US.	/ɜ:rb/
privacy	/'prɪvəsi/ First vowel: /ɪ/ or /aɪ/.	/'praɪvəsi/
leisure	/'leɪʒə/ First vowel: /e/ or /i:/.	/'li:ʒər/
advertisement	/əd'vɜ:tɪsmənt/ Main stress: second syllable in UK; third in US.	/,ædvər'taɪzmənt/
niche	/ni:ʃ/ Both US forms are accepted.	/nɪʃ/ or /ni:ʃ/

IPA: ' marks stress; : marks a long vowel. Small accent details are omitted.

Different does not mean wrong. Accents vary within both countries.
Recognising both models helps you understand more speakers.

Sources: Oxford Learner's Dictionaries; Merriam-Webster (niche); Cambridge (Z).