

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

a whole host of others	en hel drös med andra
angst	ångest
Come Again?	Hursa?
defies reason	trotsar all logik
killer	stöttesten
left in the dust	här: som inte fattar någonting
take heart	bli inte modstulen
the Scottish brogue starts to roll	här: när de hör skotska dialekter
trial and error	prova-och-se
unearth	avslöja, komma underfund med