

## **What are Americanisms?**

An *Americanism* is a word or phrase that is used primarily by Americans or thought to originate in the United States.

As an international student studying in the United States, you may encounter some “Americanisms” that are unfamiliar to you. These are words or phrases that are commonly used in American English but may have different meanings or not be used at all in other English-speaking countries. Some examples of Americanisms include "restroom" instead of "toilet," "elevator" instead of "lift," "sidewalk" instead of "pavement," and "truck" instead of "lorry."

### **AAVE/Ebonics**

African American Vernacular English (AAVE), also known as Ebonics, is a dialect that has its roots in the African American community. It is a vibrant and expressive form of English that has its own unique grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Some common features of AAVE include the use of double negatives for emphasis, dropping the "to be" verb in certain contexts, and the use of terms like "finna" for "going to" and "lit" for "exciting" or "cool".

Ebonics has a rich history and is an important part of African American culture. It is not a lesser form of English but a legitimate dialect with its own rules and structure. Understanding and appreciating AAVE and Ebonics can lead to greater cultural awareness and appreciation for linguistic diversity.

### **Conclusion**

Additionally, you may notice that Americans have different cultural norms and customs than what you are used to. For example, tipping is common in the United States, and it's expected to tip at restaurants, hair salons, and other service-based businesses. It's also common to address people you don't know by their first name, even if they are older or in a position of authority.

Overall, embracing these differences can be a great way to learn about American culture and make the most of your time studying abroad. By keeping an open mind and being willing to adapt, you'll be able to navigate American society with ease and enjoy all that the United States has to offer.