ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Same Word, Different Meaning Quiz: British vs American English

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1	**B**	2	**D**	3	**A**	4	**C**	5	**A**	6	**B**	7	**C**	8	**D**	9	**A**	10	**C**
11	**B**	12	**D**	13	**C**	14	**A**	15	**B**										

Explanations

1. A teacher in Manchester writes “quite good” on your essay. What does she mean?
✔ **B) good, but it could be better**
In British English, quite with good or nice makes the word weaker. In American English, quite good often means very good.

2. In a British meeting, a member ___ a motion so that everyone can discuss it tonight.
✔ **D) tables**
In British English, you table a motion to put it forward for discussion. In American English, it means put it aside for later.

3. The pilot of a flight to Denver says, “We’ll be landing momentarily.” When will the plane land?
✔ **A) in a few minutes**
In American English, momentarily can mean in a moment. In British English, it means for a moment.

4. In a British hotel bathroom you find towels, soap and a ___ for washing your face.
✔ **C) flannel**
In British English, a flannel is a small cloth for washing your face (American washcloth). In American English, flannel usually means a soft, warm fabric.

5. Digging the new vegetable garden by hand was hard ___.
✔ **A) graft**
Hard graft is informal British English for hard, tiring work. In American English, graft means dishonest money in politics.

6. For Christmas, my aunt in Yorkshire sent us a ___ full of cheese, biscuits and jam.
✔ **B) hamper**
In British English, a hamper is a basket of food for a picnic or a present. In American English, it is a basket for dirty clothes.

7. At an American college, “the faculty” means:
✔ **C) all the teachers**
In American English, the faculty are all the teachers. In British English, a faculty is a group of university departments.

8. The university’s ___ of Medicine has six departments and two hospitals.
✔ **D) Faculty**
In British English, a faculty is a group of university departments. In American English, the faculty are all the teachers.

9. Her parents pay for private French ___ twice a week.
✔ **A) tuition**
In British English, tuition means teaching, often private lessons. In American English, tuition is the money you pay a college.

10. A man in Edinburgh wears a ___ under his shirt and ___ to hold up his trousers.
✔ **C) vest … braces**
A British vest goes under a shirt, and British braces hold up trousers. In Britain, suspenders hold up stockings.

11. You wear a British ___ under your shirt and an American ___ over it.
✔ **B) vest … vest**
A British vest is a thin top worn under a shirt. An American vest is the British waistcoat, worn over a shirt.

12. In British English, jelly is ___, and a cot is ___.
✔ **D) a wobbly dessert … a baby’s bed**
British jelly is a sweet, wobbly dessert (American jelly is a kind of jam). A British cot is a baby’s bed with high sides (an American cot is a camp bed).

13. “What’s for ___?” “Apple pie and cream.” (British English)
✔ **C) pudding**
In British English, pudding is any sweet course at the end of a meal.

14. On an American menu, the ___ is the main course.
✔ **A) entrée**
In American English, an entrée is the main course. In France, and on some British menus, it is the dish before it.

15. Which sentence sounds American?
✔ **B) The manager met with the unions, then visited with her parents.**
Meet with (have a planned meeting) and visit with (spend time chatting) are American. British English usually says meet and see.