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	/təˈmɑːtəʊ/ Stressed vowel: /ɑː/ or /eɪ/.	/təˈmeɪtoʊ/
Z (letter)	zed /zed/ Letter name only: the /z/ sound in words is the same.	zee /ziː/
zebra	/ˈzebrə/ UK also accepts /ˈziːbrə/.	/ˈziːbrə/
vitamin	/ˈvɪtəmɪn/ First vowel: /ɪ/ or /aɪ/.	/ˈvaɪtəmɪn/
schedule	/ˈʃedjuːl/ Common starts: /ʃ/ or /sk/.	/ˈskedʒuːl/
route	/ruːt/ US accepts both: "root" and "rowt".	/ruːt/ or /raʊt/
herb	/hɜːb/ Usually /h/ in UK; usually silent h in US.	/ɜːrb/
privacy	/ˈprɪvəsi/ First vowel: /ɪ/ or /aɪ/.	/ˈpraɪvəsi/
leisure	/ˈleʒə/ First vowel: /e/ or /iː/.	/ˈliːʒər/
advertisement	/ədˈvɜːtɪsmənt/ Main stress: second syllable in UK; third in US.	/ˌædvərˈtaɪzmənt/
niche	/niːʃ/ Both US forms are accepted.	/nɪtʃ/ or /niːʃ/

IPA: ˈ marks stress; ː 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).

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