

# ALPHABET SOUP:



## International Questions

By GYLES BRANDRETH

"The English have really everything in common with the Americans, except, of course, language," said Oscar Wilde when he heard that audiences in New York weren't queuing to see his plays: they were standing in line at the box office.

There are scores of English words about which the British and the Americans don't seem to agree. Here are 30 which may make perfect sense to you, but which an ordinary Londoner would not understand.

What would a Britisher call each of these words?

1. apartment
2. backup lights
3. band-aid
4. bathrobe
5. bill
6. checkers
7. closet
8. cream of wheat
9. elevator
10. faucet
11. flashlight
12. hamburger meat
13. lima bean
14. molasses
15. nightstick
16. odometer
17. panty hose
18. private school
19. raisin
20. sidewalk
21. spool
22. thumbtack
23. tick-tack-toe
24. vest
25. zucchini

(See Answers.)

The names of two different countries are hidden in each of the eight sentences below. Can you discover them?

For example, in the sentence "Interpol and the FBI discover hidden marksmen," POLAND is hidden in the first two words and DENMARK is hidden in the last two words.

1. Give the dog a bone and give him a little water.
2. Have you ever heard an animal talk in dialect?
3. Evening classes may help an amateur to improve his painting.
4. Children put on galoshes to go out in the rain.
5. The Viscount has not



found a home yet and he regrets leaving his fine palace.

6. If your exhaust pipe rusts you just have to shrug and accept it.
7. Such a display could be either grand or rather vulgar.
8. Vladimir and Olga are Soviet names.

(See Answers.)

The names of some countries include within them a boy's or girl's name. For example, the name ADA forms part of Canada and Grenada. Can you find names of coun-

tries in which the following personal names appear?

- |         |            |
|---------|------------|
| 1. Guy  | 8. Philip  |
| 2. Stan | 9. Mark    |
| 3. Dan  | 10. Ken    |
| 4. Don  | 11. Les    |
| 5. Alan | 12. Leo    |
| 6. Gary | 13. Eli    |
| 7. Rita | 14. Martin |

(See Answers.)

### ANSWERS

1. flat
2. reversing lights
3. elastoplast
4. dressing gown
5. bank note
6. draughts
7. cupboard
8. semolina
9. lift
10. tap
11. torch
12. mince
13. broad bean
14. black treacle
15. truncheon
16. mileometer

17. tights
18. public school
19. sultana
20. pavement/footpath
21. cotton reel
22. drawing pin
23. noughts and crosses
24. waistcoat
25. courgettes

\*\*\*

1. Gabon, Mali
2. Malta, India
3. Panama, Spain
4. Tonga, Togo
5. Dahomey, Nepal
6. Peru, Uganda
7. Chad, Andorra
8. Iran, Vietnam

\*\*\*

1. Guyana
2. Afghanistan or Pakistan
3. Jordan or Sudan
4. Indonesia
5. New Zealand
6. Hungary
7. Mauritania
8. Philippines
9. Denmark
10. Kenya
11. Lesotho
12. Sierra Leone
13. Belize
14. Martinique