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! " £ $ % ^ & * ( ) _ + = \
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 - = \
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[ ]
A S D F G H J K L ; @ ~
; ' #
| Z X C V B N M < > ?
\ , /
British Keyboard Layout

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English company may have to bill you again for the difference. The solution: an International money order, available from the foreign currency desk of any bank that has one (larger US Post Offices handle International Postal Money Orders). You will pay a service charge of \$10.00 for the money order.

Applications software presents some severe problems. Most programs are visually incompatible--especially with business systems. For example, accounting nomenclature is radically different. Can any of you business types out there imagine accounting without Accounts Receivable? What would an American do with VAT? Usage of language is different. For example, "Atari is going to introduce product" in the U.S., but "Atari are going to introduce product" in the U.K. People who use Transatlantic spelling checkers find the waters choppy, also. "Color" becomes "Colour", "Theater" becomes "Theatre", "Advert" is a real word, and "Fag" is a cigarette. For the most part, it's the same language, though.

There's another problem--the English keyboard is different. As you can see in the picture four keys differ--the */8 has the English pound sign, the \ is an overslash /\, our shift key is two keys on their keyboards--a small shift key and an underline slash. This means that if software is not written in the right way, an American program will crash an English ST system on input, and vice versa. For example, VIP Professional had that problem in the U.K. Load it in, and your ST crashed. The problem is with the programming. Some programs create a "map" of the keyboard, and look for a dollar sign

at a certain spot. If there's a pound sign instead, kabloolie.

So, what's safe? Anything which does not rely on the keyboard, but uses the mouse instead, should be safe. Most games. Also programs that look for the ASCII code the key sends, rather than location on the keyboard. Tim King, the director of research at MetaComCo, commented on the English-American keyboard problem. "Didn't make too much hassle to us" he said. MetaComCo keeps a U.S. keyboard around, just in case. "Major problems are in the French and German keyboard, because they are in a different order." Yes, it's true--tap across the top left letters of a French keyboard and you'll get AZERTY instead of QWERTY. Tap across a German keyboard, you'll get QWERTZ (see below). But that's another story.

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! " § $ % & ' ( ) = ? \ ^
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 ß ' #
Q W E R T Z U I O P ü \ *
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German Keyboard Layout

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