

AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

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The official language of Australia is English, but you may have noticed that the Australian accent is very different to any accent you would hear in the United Kingdom.

In the 18th Century, when Britain invaded Australia and made it part of the British Empire, the government found it hard to persuade people to go. For a long time, they had to force people to move to Australia - many people who were found guilty of committing a crime in Britain were sent to Australia instead of prison! Even though the UK is small, it has many, completely different accents depending on which part you are from. When people from all these different places ended up in Australia, they would naturally have tried to change the way they spoke a little bit, to make it easy to understand each other. They develop an accent when they learn to speak, and so their accent comes from the world around them. At first, English people thought the new Australian accent was great because this accent was clear and easy to understand. Then, something changed. A new accent became popular among rich and powerful people in England. This was called Received Pronunciation (RP)

How to Speak With an Australian Accent:

- **Keep your intonation steady, quick, and soft.** Picture a long, constant stream of words coming out -- much like the entire sentence is one whole word. To do this, try not to move your tongue so much.

- **Adjust your pronunciation of "i" to sound more like the i in "oil."** This is one of the more important shifts you'll make. Instead of the I sound ("eye") in "like," "might" or "try," you want something more like an "oi" sound, though not quite so pronounced.

- **Turn your hard A sound into an "aye"** The hard A in "way" or "mate" almost sounds like an "eye" sound. It is somewhat of a compound sound, like you start with an A and then slide your voice into an I sound. While this takes some practice, you may notice that you lips move outward a bit when you get it right, flattening the O-shape your mouth makes for an A.

Way → w-aye

Date → d-aye-t.

- **Soften a soft A into an "eh" sound.** This part of the accent is regional, as there is no one exact Aussie accent. Simply put, it softens the A sound in words like "hat," "that," "cat," etc. to sound more like an "eh."

Hat → H-eh.

That → Th-eh.

Cat → C-eh.

- **Curb the T from the end of words.** Aussies replace the hard T sound with a short, almost guttural noise instead of a full "tuh" sound. If you're having trouble finding it, say the words "uh-oh." The noise is the small, sharp stop you make between the two sounds, like your voice was just cut short. When you say the word, "right," you want to sound more like "r-eye." Practicing "trimming" the T sound to perfect your accent.

You'll notice for an American T that your tongue pushes off the rough of your mouth. For the Aussie accent, try and make a similar sound without touching your tongue to the rough of your mouth.

This is called a glottal stop, and is used in several languages and accents.[2]

- **Drop the R sound from the end of words and replace it with an "ah."** For example, instead of "forever," you would say "forev-ah." Instead of "car," you'd say "cah." This is somewhat similar to the Boston accent, however it is softer and less pronounced. Your voice drops a little bit, almost sounding like an "uh" at the end of the word.

River → Riv-ah

Care → Kehr. Here, the R sound is subtle because the word ends in an E. Think of cutting your word off right after you start the R sound.

- **Cut off the G from any "-ing" ending word.** Oftentimes the Australian accent cuts words short. Words ending in a G are cut off, so that "catching" sounds like "cat-chn." In many ways, this makes Australian similar to an informal American English, a comparison that will serve you well as you practice.

Running → Runnin'

Eating → Eatin'

Ring → Rin'

- **Raise your voice towards the ends of words.** Sometimes called the "Australian Question Inflection," this little trick is common in everyday Australian speech. Simply raise your voice towards the end of a sentence, exactly like you were asking a question. Think of getting a little louder, and a little higher pitched, with the last syllable.

- **Adjust your "a" sounds to "ah".** Australians have some of the most relaxed accents in the world, so instead of can't, say kah-nt, and instead of aunt, say ah-nt.

- **Slang**

Slang is constantly evolving, and it is tough to find a definitive source of knowledge to determine what words are "in" and what are "out."

- Esky → Cooler or icebox.
- Uni → University.
- Arvo → Afternoon.
- Thongs → Flip-flops.
- Bogan → Redneck, uncultured person.

- Tucker → Food.
- Runners → Trainers, Sneakers.
- Yeah-Nah → No.
- Nah-Yeah → Yes.
- Scrap → A fight.
- Fair Dinkum → Genuine, real, true.

American slang is filled with simple filler words and a phrase like "gosh," "guys," "say what?" etc. Australian is no different. Some things to try out include:

- Ending phrases with the word "mate." Mate can be used anytime you would normally say "guys," "man (as in, "come on, mate!"), or similarly simple slang terms for a person.
- Using "Reckon" when you're thinking of something. "I reckon that's not a bad idea, mate."

If you master these Australian English words and phrases, you'll have no problem speaking to any true blue Australian.

References:

1. <https://www.wikihow.com/Speak-With-an-Australian-Accent>
2. <https://www.fluentu.com/blog/english/australian-english/>

PANDEMICS AS A SOURCE OF NEOLOGISMS FORMATION

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A **neologism** (*/ni:'plɒdʒɪzəm/*; from Greek *véo-* *néo-*, "new" and *λόγος* *lógos*, "speech, utterance") is a relatively recent or isolated term, word, or phrase that may be in the process of entering common use, but that has not yet been fully accepted into mainstream language. Any language is a living organism. In particular, the English language is currently developing very swiftly and there is so called «neology blowup». R. Berchfield who worked at compiling a four-volume supplement to NED says that averagely 800 neologisms appear every year in modern English [1]. There are several reasons why do neologisms appear in any language: 1) the events in the field of politics (Brexit); 2) the rise of new concepts and new ideas in the social culture and Pop-culture (Hip-hop, Megxit); 3) new discoveries in science and technology (Internet). 4) the manufacture of new products in economy (airpods). 5) literature (Author's neologisms). For example, the term "time machine" was first coined by H.G. Wells in his book "The Time Machine", published in 1895. Since that time the word "time machine" has been used all over the world. 6) Internet, social media websites caused the appearance of many new words among which is the expression "Like shock" – when you get more likes in Instagram / Facebook that you expected: