

LINGUISTIC FEATURES OF AUSTRALIAN ENGLISH

Generally speaking, Australian English takes features from both British and American English, so it is sometimes considered a combination of the two variations. However, it is important to understand that there are a number of unique features as well, including exclusive vocabulary.

Grammatical features of Australia Englis

Australian English's reputation as an amalgam of British and American English can be understood more clearly when you look at its grammatical features. For example, in terms of spelling, Australian English most closely resembles British English. The 'u' is retained in words like **'colour'** and the **'ise'** ending is used instead of the Americanised **'ize'** suffix on words like **'realise'** / **'realize'**.





Yet, there are plenty of exceptions to this. The word ‘**inquire**’ is often used instead of ‘**enquire**’, which resembles American English, while the word ‘**program**’ is used instead of the British English ‘**programme**’. Furthermore, even though the British English spelling of ‘**labour**’ is most common, the Australian Labor Party’s name has an Americanised spelling instead.



Much like with British English, Australian English has irregular past tense and past participles of verbs like **‘spell’** and **‘smell’**, so they become **‘spelt’** and **‘smelt’**, respectively. However, like with American English, Australians are more likely to say numbers like 1,100 as **“eleven hundred”**, rather than **“one thousand, one hundred”**. When dealing with collective nouns, Australian English has more in common with the American version of the language. For example, both Australians and Americans would say **“the football team has scored a goal”**, whereas in British English, they would say **“the football team have scored a goal”**.

Pronunciation in Australia

- 'i' in words like 'night' and 'like', pronounced 'oi' (e.g. noight).
- 'a' in words like 'cat' and 'hat', pronounced similar to 'eh' (ceht, heht).
- hard 'a' sound, in words like 'day', 'way' or 'mate', pronounced somewhat similar to how a British English person might say the word 'aye' (the word 'mate' becomes 'm-aye-te').
- the 'ing' ending is not pronounced in full, meaning words like 'singing', 'jumping' and 'catching' are pronounced 'singin', 'jumpin' and 'catchin'.
- the /r/ sound is not pronounced if it is after a vowel and not immediately followed by another vowel. The word 'card' is pronounced 'caɹd', with the /r/ sound being dropped. Meanwhile, the ending of words like 'better' and 'wetter' is lowered, to sound similar to 'ah'. This means you would say 'bett-ah', 'wett-ah'.



Australian English Vocabulary

- outback – description of remote location
- barbie – barbecue
- doona – duvet
- aluminium – aluminum
- mobile phone – cell phone
- anti-clockwise – counter-clockwise
- petrol – gasoline
- bonnet – hood
- holiday – vacation
- soccer – football
- overalls – dungarees
- lorry – truck
- pants – trousers
- overseas – abroad
- town – village



AUSTRALIAN SLANG WORDS

1. Amber – Beer or lager.
2. Aussie – An Australian person.
3. Drongo – Used in place of words like ‘idiot’ or ‘moron’.
4. Fair Dinkum – True, or genuine.
5. Gander – To have a look at something.
6. G’ Day – Literally means ‘good day’ but is used as a general greeting.
7. Give It A Burl – Give it a try, or have a go.
8. Hooroo – Goodbye.
9. Oldies – Parents.
10. Pom/Pommie – A British person (be warned: this word can cause offense as it is generally used in a derogatory manner).
11. Reckon – Used similar to ‘absolutely’.
12. Ripper – Similar to words like ‘great’, ‘fantastic’ and ‘awesome’.
13. She’s Apple – It is fine / It will be okay.
14. Tucker – Used to describe food of any type.
15. Yabber – Talk, or chat

