Australian English

Australian English (AusE, AuE, AusEng, en-AU) is the name given to the group of dialects spoken in Australia that form a major variety of the English language

Australian English began to diverge from British English soon after the foundation of the Colony of New South Wales in 1788.

A much larger wave of immigration, as a result of the first Australian gold rushes, in the 1850s, also had a significant influence on Australian English, including large numbers of people who spoke English as a second language.

The " Americanisation" of Australian English — signified by the borrowing of words, spellings, terms, and usages from North American English — began during the goldrushes, and was accelerated by a massive influx of United States military personnel during World War II. The large-scale importation of television programs and other mass media content from the US, from the 1950s onwards, including more recently US computer software, especially Microsoft's spellchecker, has also had a significant effect

December 1st 1854.

Swearing allegiance to the "Southern Cross"

CHARLES DOUDIET
SWEARING ALLEGIANCE TO THE SOUTHERN CROSS 1854
COLLECTION: BALLARAT FINE ART GALLERY

Australian English is a **non-rhotic dialect**. The Australian accent is most similar to that of New Zealand and is also similar to accents from the South-East of Britain, particularly those of Cockney and Received Pronunciation. As with most dialects of English, it is distinguished primarily by its vowelphonology.

Australian English vowels are divided into **two categories**: *long*, which includes long monophthongs and diphthongs, and *short*, all of which are monophthongs

Varieties of Australian English

Most linguists consider there to be three main varieties of Australian English. These are **Broad, General and Cultivated Australian English.**

Broad Australian English is the archetypal and most recognisable variety. It is familiar to English speakers around the world because of its use in identifying Australian characters in non-Australian films and television programs. Examples include television personalities Steve Irwin and Dame Edna Everage, Pauline Hanson

General Australian English is the stereotypical variety of Australian English. It is the variety of English used by the majority of Australians and it dominates the accents found in contemporary Australian-made films and television programs. Examples include actors Russell Crowe, Hugh Jackman, Nicole Kidman.

Cultivated Australian English has many similarities to British Received Pronunciation, and is often mistaken for it. Cultivated Australian English is now spoken by less than 10% of the population. Examples include actors Judy Davis, Robert Hughes, Geoffrey Rush.

Aboriginal Vocabulary

- The aboriginal vocabulary, which is one of the trademarks of Australian English, included *billabong* (a waterhole), *jumbuck* (a sheep), *corroboree* (an assembly), *boomerang* (a curved throwing stick), and *budgerigar* (from *bu dgeree*, "good" and *gar*, "parrot").

The number of Aboriginal words in Australian English is quite small and is confined to the namings of plants
(like *bindieye* and *calombo*, trees
(like *boree, banksia, quandong* and *mallee*), birds
(like *currawong, galah* and *kookaburra*), animals
(like *wallaby* and *wombat*) and fish (like *barramindi*).

- The Aborigines also adopted words from maritime pidgin English, words like *piccaninny* and *bilong* (belong). They used familiar pidgin English variants like *talcum* and *catchum*. The most famous example is *gammon*, an eighteenth-century Cockney word meaning "a lie".

Non-aboriginal Vocabulary

- The roots of Australian English lie in the South and East of England, London, Scotland and Ireland. To take just a few examples, words like *corker, dust-up, purler* and *tootsy* all came Australia from Ireland; *billy* comes from the Scottish *bally*, meaning "a milk pail". A typical Australianism like *fossick*, meaning "to search unsystematically", is a Cornish word. *Cobber* came from the Suffolk verb to *cob*, "to take a liking to someone". *Tucker* is widely used for "food". *Clobber* has Romany roots and is originally recorded in Kent as *clubbered up*, meaning "dressed up".

Australian Peculiarities

- ***Examples with the -o ending include***

  abo (aborigine - now considered very offensive), *aggro* (aggressive), *ambo* (ambulance office), *arvo* (afternoon), *avo* (avocado), *bizzo* (business), *bottleo* (bottle shop/liquor store), *compo* (compensation), *dero* (homeless person – from derelict), *devo* (deviant/pervert), *doco* (documentary), *evo* (evening), *fisho* (fishmonger), *fruito* (fruiterer), *garbo* (garbage collector), *gyno* (gynaecologist), *journo* (journalist), *kero* (kerosene), *metho* (methylated spirits), *milko* (milkman), *Nasho* (National Service – compulsory military service), *reffo* (refugee), *rego* (vehicle registration), *Salvo* (member of the Salvation Army), *servo* (service station/gas station), *smoko* (smoke or coffee/tea break), thingo (thing, whadjamacallit), *vejjo* (vegetarian),etc.

- ***Examples of the -ie (-y) ending include*** *aggie* (student of agricultural science), *Aussie* (Australian), *barbie* (barbeque), *beautie* (beautiful, stereotypically pronounced and even written *bewdy*), *bikkie* (biscuit), *bitie* (biting insect), *blowie* (blowfly), *bookie* (bookmaker), *brekkie* (breakfast), *brickie* (bricklayer), *Brizzie* (Brisbane – state capital of Queensland), *Bushie* (someone who lives in the bush), *chewie* (chewing gum), *chokkie* (chocolate), *Chrissie* (Christmas), *exy* (expensive),*lippy* (lipstick), *oldies* (parents), *postie* (postman), *sunnies* (sunglasses), *surfy* (surfing fanatic), *swaggie* (swagman), *truckie* (truck driver), *vedgie* (vegetable) etc.

- Occasionally, a *-za* diminutive is used, usually for personal names. Barry becomes *Bazza*, Karen becomes *Kazza* and Sharon becomes *Shazza*.
- There are also a lot of abbreviations in Australian English without any suffixes. Examples of these are the words
  beaut (great, beautiful), *deli* (delicatessen), *nana* (banana), *roo* (kangaroo), *uni* (university),etc.

These are the best-known Australianisms in the English-speaking world.

Australian English	World Standard English
amber	beer
arvo	afternoon
barbie	barbecue
barrack	cheer
beaut	great
bloke	man
chook	chicken
clobber	clothes
crook	ill
daks	trousers (BrE), pants (AmE)

Australian English	World Standard English
dinkum	genuine, true
evo	evening
G'day	hello
lolly	sweet (BrE), candy (AmE)
nana	banana
oil	information
Oz	Australia
Pom(my)	English
sheila	woman
snag	sausage

Australian American British English Lexical Differences

Australian English	American English	British English
bathers	bathing-suit	swimming-costume
bloke	guy	chap
cozzie	bathing-suit	swimming-costume
crook	sick	ill
daks (dacks)	pants	trousers
duchess	buffet	sideboard
durry	cigaret(te)	fag
fairy floss	cotton candy	candyfloss

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durry	cigaret(te)	fag
fairy floss	cotton candy	candyfloss
fisho	fish seller	fishmonger
footpath	sidewalk	pavement
garbo	garbage man	dustman
garbologist	garbage man	dustman
grog	liquor	spirits
ice block	Popsicle	ice lolly

Australian English	American English	British English
ice block	Popsicle	ice lolly
icy pole	Popsicle	ice lolly
jocks	underpants	pants
lolly	candy	sweet
mate	buddy (bud)	fellow (feller, fella)
port	baggage	luggage
postie	mailman	postman
Proprietary (Pty)	Incorporated (Inc.)	Limited (Ltd)
semitrailer	tractor-trailer	articulated lorry
servo	gas station	petrol station
station	ranch	farm
strides	pants	trousers
swimmers	bathing-suit	swimming-costume

Australian English	American English	British English
togs	bathing-suit	swimming-costume
truckie, trucky	truck driver	lorry driver
tuckshop	cafeteria	canteen
underdaks	underpants	pants
unit	apartment	flat
ute	utility truck	utility vehicle
wag	play hookey	play truant

The end