

AUSTRALIAN SLANG

Australian speech is not only tinged with a strong accent, known as "strine", but it also very inventive and colorful in its use of description and metaphor. Apart from shortening everything, ie: mosquito becomes simply mozzie, Australians will baffle you with their seemingly incomprehensible colloquialisms. Here is just a sampling, or a quick squiz, if you prefer.

G'day, mate - Hello, friend (of course, everyone knows that).

Fair dinkum - true, honest.

True blue - authentic; you are a true-blue Aussie.

Fair go - usually used as an exclamation when one feels hard done by.

Fair crack of the whip - the longer version of fair go.

Don't come the raw prawn - don't act innocent when I know you know what's going on. Prawn is shrimp, hence a raw prawn is green and naive.

She'll be right - A reflection of the laid-back attitude of most Australians. Everything will all work out alright.

Don't get your knickers in a knot - Don't get upset. Usually used in conjunction with "she'll be right".

Give it a go - to try something. Usually used before "she'll be right" and followed by "well I'll be" if it doesn't work or is a slight surprise.

Flat out like a lizard drinking - things couldn't be busier.

Rough as guts - very rough (some of the early Australian wine could have been described this way).

Spit the dummy - to quit, give up, usually in a demonstrative, tantrum-like manner. A dummy is a pacifier.

Roo loose in the top paddock - someone who is a bit loopy.

Put a sock in it - be quiet (no prizes for guessing where the sock goes).

Rough end of the pineapple - getting a raw deal.

Knock your socks off - anything that is very strong and likely to have a strong effect on you.

Better than a poke in the eye with a burnt stick - whatever your situation is, it could be worse.

Carry on like a pork chop - to overreact to something.

For crying out loud - another exclamation for when someone feels hard done by.

Choc-a-block - very, very full. Or chockas.

Full as a goog - also very, very full. A goog is an egg.

Bung - broken, or to put something somewhere: "Oh, just bung it over there".

Strike me pink - an exclamation of surprise that has no logical connection. Often used with "stone the crows".

Blimey - an exclamation of surprise.

Struth - another exclamation of surprise, or despair; or shock, or frustration. Can be used with blimey.

Zizz / Kip - a little nap. "I think I'll just go and have a little zizz."

Humdinger - something that is really, really good

Too right - you are absolutely correct, ie: "aint that the truth".

Beaut / Bonza! - great!, An all-round exclamation of satisfaction, ie: "You little beaut" or "It's beaut".

No worries - equivalent to no probs (no problem).

Beyond the black stump - very far away, the Outback

RHYMING SLANG

Australians also love to totally confuse you by using rhyming slang, a left-over from the Cockney convicts, that will have you thinking that everyone is crazy.

Noah's ark - shark

Frog and toad - road

Bag of fruit - suit

Rubbidy dub - pub

1/2 inch - pinch

Dog and bone - telephone

Odie cologne - telephone

Dead horse - tomato sauce (ketchup)

WE JUST HAVE DIFFERENT WORDS THAN YOU

Lolly - candy

Biscuit - cookie

Dry biscuit - cracker

Chook - chicken

Petrol - gasoline

Boot - trunk

Bonnet - hood

Torch - flashlight

Couch - sofa

Jumper - sweater

Footpath - sidewalk

Jumbuck - sheep

Costume / bathers - swimming suit

Billabong - stagnant water hole

Bush - country away from the city, forest

Outback - remote, inland bush areas (also Donga)

Crook - sick

Squib - coward

Hard Yacker - hard physical work

Bloke - man

Swag - bedroll and belongings, rolled up and tied over shoulder

Shout - pay for something for someone else

Nature strip - the strip of grass between footpath and road

AND THEN WE SHORTEN THEM TOO

Finally, Australians always shorten every word possible..

Cossie - swimming costume

Postie - postman

Bickie - biscuit (cookie)

Barbie - barbeque

Arvo - afternoon

Relies - relatives

Sanies - sandwiches

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