

VISITING AUSTRALIA

FREE LESSON



BEFORE WE START...

When people think about English, they usually think about British English or American English. And that's perfectly natural – these are the varieties we hear most often in films, TV series, books and online. However, native **English is spoken in many different parts of the world**, including Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, South Africa and Canada. Every country has its own **accent, vocabulary and expressions**. British English is spoken by only a relatively small percentage of native English speakers.

That's why every semester we'll explore at least one different English-speaking country. After all, **learning English and learning about the cultures behind it go hand in hand**. The more we understand how people speak, communicate and use the language around the world, the better our overall understanding of English becomes. Today we're travelling to Australia! 🇦🇺

CAN YOU GUESS WHAT THESE AUSTRALIAN WORDS MEAN?

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. What is the bush ?
A. A small town
B. Wild natural areas away from cities
C. A type of Australian tree | 4. What is a barbie ?
A. A barbecue
B. A beach party
C. A camping stove |
| 2. Australians often call someone mate . What does it mean?
A. Friend
B. Neighbour
C. Brother | 5. What does ta mean?
A. Hello
B. Thank you
C. Goodbye |
| 3. What does arvo mean?
A. Afternoon
B. Tomorrow morning
C. Weekend | 6. What is a servo ?
A. A petrol station
B. A mechanic
C. A motorway |

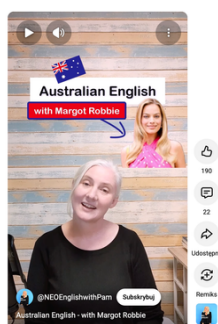
AUSTRALIAN ACCENT

Do you know the actress Margot Robbie?

These days, you'll usually hear her speaking with an **American accent** in films and interviews. However, Margot is actually Australian, and she grew up speaking with an Australian accent. **Watch the two short videos below.**

First, **watch a one-minute video** explaining some of the most noticeable features of the Australian accent.

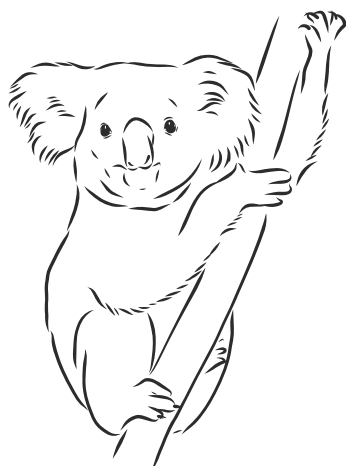
Then, if you're curious, **watch a short interview** (about two minutes long) from many years ago, where Margot Robbie speaks with her natural Australian accent. *Listen to how Australian English sounds.*



VIDEO 1



VIDEO 2



LISTENING

You're going to listen to a podcast about visiting Australia.

As you listen, **complete the table with the advice given about each topic.**

Don't worry if you don't catch everything the first time. Listen for the main ideas and key recommendations.

[LISTEN HERE](#)

TOPIC	ADVICE
(A) taking a road trip:	
(B) must-see attractions:	
(C) spiders:	
(D) snakes:	

READING

Read the article below. Then match the **pink words** and phrases from the text with the correct definitions.

- _____ **leave a place without planning or noticing**
- _____ **a guess made with very little information**
- _____ **acting in a clumsy or confused way**
- _____ **very strong, serious, or extreme**
- _____ **almost; nearly completely**
- _____ **walk unsteadily because you don't know where you're going**
- _____ **move away from the correct or safe path**
- _____ **empty, with no plants or nothing growing**

BUMBLING BRIT RESCUED IN AUSSIE OUTBACK... AGAIN

An English tourist known as the '**Bumbling** Brit' was rescued from the Australian desert – for the second time in less than a week.

Martin Lake, 50, was found by a police helicopter after he had **stumbled around** less than a mile from the area where he was first lost near Alice Springs in Central Australia.

He told his rescuers that he had been wandering for four days – one day longer than the first time he had become disorientated.

Police said they were furious they had to be called out to help him for the second time.

And local people, concerned that the former British police trainee was putting his own life – and that of rescuers – in danger by getting lost in the Outback joined in a united chorus: "Send him home!"

Mr Lake, from Bedworth, Warwicks – and not Birkenhead, Lancs. as locals had first believed – was found near a popular tourist trekking area just three miles from Alice Springs, **virtually** in the same location where he had become lost last week after **straying from** a well-marked path.

On that occasion, badly sunburned and dehydrated, he told police that he had been lost for three days and doubted whether he would be able to last another day in the searing day heat and freezing night temperatures.

He was nicknamed the Bumbling Brit after it was learned he had broken all the local rules by failing to wear a hat to protect his bald head, had carried very little water with him, and had failed to apply any sun cream.

His mobile phone battery was so low when he had set out on that first walking adventure that when police tried to call him back after he first raised the alarm that he was lost, his phone went dead.

'Foolish'

He was given a **severe** lecturing and told not to go **wandering off** on his own again.

Yet that is exactly what he has done again - returning to the same area and setting out away from one of the marked tracks.

Although his phone was in better working order the second time around, he waited until he realised he was in serious trouble before raising the alarm that he was lost.

"We couldn't believe it when we received a call from this fellow saying he was lost again," said a police source.

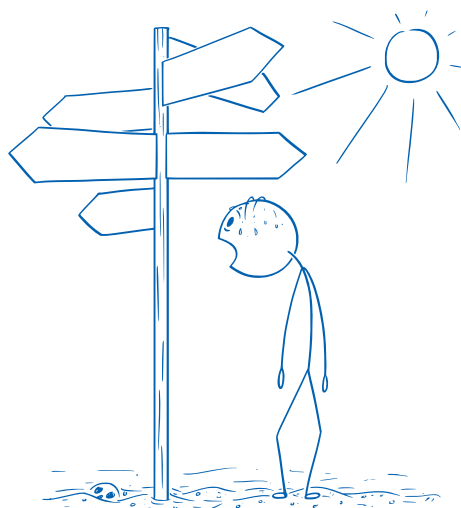
A helicopter was despatched to search the region and after several hours of flying over the **barren** landscape Mr Lake was found.

As the Bumbling Brit was being kept in hospital for observation after his ordeal with little water once again, police expressed their disappointment at his "foolish actions".

Senior Sergeant Michael Potts of Alice Springs police said: "We're hoping to find out from him why he's gone right back out there again. In my own personal experience this hasn't happened before.

"It's disappointing after speaking to him last week and stressing our concerns that he'd gone out and got lost, that he's gone out to the same area and got lost again.

"We're experiencing a hot, dry climate and this guy was fortunate the weather had cooled down again. People with limited supplies don't tend to last very long in this sort of climate. "Without his mobile phone it would have been a **stab in the dark** to find him."



GRAMMAR

MODAL VERBS IN THE PAST

Take a look at those sentences with modal verbs in the past and read the info

He **should have taken** more water with him.
He **shouldn't have walked** off the marked track again.
He **could have avoided** the second rescue if he had listened to the police.
He **might have been** seriously injured.
He **would have survived** much longer if he had worn a hat.
He **should have charged** his phone fully.

Modal verbs usually have only one form, so we don't change them for the future or the past.

But we *can* talk about past situations with them when we use **modal + have + past participle**.

👉 This does NOT mean a "real" past tense of the modal.

It means something different: **judging the past, imagining the past, or talking about missed possibilities.**



■ **should have**

We use should have to say that the past action was a mistake or that a better choice existed.

→ *He should have taken more water.*

■ **could have**

We use could have to talk about a past possibility that was available but didn't happen.

→ *He could have stayed safe if he followed the signs.*

■ **might have**

We use might have to talk about something that was possible in the past, but we are not sure.

→ *He might have been in danger without his phone.*

■ **would have**

We use would have to talk about a different, imagined past result — usually in conditionals.

→ *He would have survived longer if he had prepared properly.*

[**CLICK TO PRACTISE**](#)

ANSWER KEY

1. Australian English Quiz

- bush – wild natural areas away from cities (dzikie tereny z dala od miast)
- mate – friend (kolega, kumpel)
- arvo – afternoon (popołudnie)
- barbie – barbecue (grill)
- ta – thank you (dzięki)
- servo – petrol station (stacja benzynowa)

2. Listening – Visiting Australia

Taking a road trip

- Fill up your fuel tank before leaving.
- Take a spare container of fuel.
- Be prepared for dirt roads in remote areas.

Must-see attractions

- Experience Aboriginal culture.
- Visit the Great Barrier Reef.
- Respect Australia's natural environment.

Spiders

- Don't touch spiders or their webs.
- Shake your shoes before putting them on.
- Remember that spider attacks are very rare.

Snakes

- Wear sensible hiking shoes.
- Back away slowly if you see a snake.
- Stamp your feet and make noise to scare it away.

3. Reading Vocabulary

- wander off → leave a place without planning or noticing (oddalić się, odejść nieświadomie)
- stab in the dark → a guess made with very little information (strzał w ciemno)
- bumbling → acting in a clumsy or confused way (niezdarny, nieporadny)
- severe → very strong, serious, or extreme (poważny, dotkliwy, silny)
- virtually → almost; nearly completely (praktycznie, niemal)
- stumble around → walk unsteadily because you don't know where you're going (błąkać się, iść chwiejnym krokiem)
- stray from → move away from the correct or safe path (zejść z właściwej lub bezpiecznej drogi)
- barren → empty, with no plants or nothing growing (jałowy, pozbawiony roślinności)