

AUSTRALIA

Research the meaning of the following: slang, idiom, colloquialism, syllable, prefix, suffix.

Let's Talk!

Language is one of the things that makes Australia unique. Although we speak English like many other countries of the world, we have developed a distinctive accent and a range of colourful words and expressions that are not used elsewhere. Some of this *slang* or *colloquial speech* has died out as improved transport and communication have reduced Australia's isolation but there are still many examples that visitors to our country find hard to understand.

Unique Words and Expressions

Our unique words have developed from many sources eg from indigenous Aboriginal words and our convict heritage. Some come from our dry sense of humour eg we often called an auburn-headed man, *Blue* or *Bluey*.

Find the meaning of these unique Australian words:

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|--------------|-------------|
| Hooroo | Yobbo |
| Shout | Barny |
| Bloke | Dunny |

Find some other examples.

Words from the Aboriginal Language

The following words have come directly from indigenous languages. Do you know what they mean? What form of speech are most of them? Why do you think this is?

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|------------------|-------------------|
| Billabong | Bindi |
| Bung | Cooee |
| Corroboree | Gibber |
| Jackeroo | Willy willy |
| Yabber | Yakka |

Abbreviations

Australians tend to shorten words or phrases by reducing them to one syllable and adding an 'o', 'ie', 'z' or 'a'. What are the following short for? Find some other abbreviations with the same endings:

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| Mossie |
| Shaz |
| Cuppa |
| Arvo |

Strine

We also tend to run our words together so their beginnings and endings are not clear. This is known as Strine. Can you translate these examples:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Avagoodweegend | Giddy |
| Seeyatermorrer | Emma chisit? |
| Jegoda the footy?..... | Icon ardywait |
| I can't live withairchew | |

Rhyming Slang

Sometimes we use two rhyming words to replace a third rhyming word. This is said to have its origins in Cockney - a dialect of English from the working class part (east end) of London. Many early European settlers came from this area. Research what each of these mean:

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| Rubbity dub |
| Captain cook |
| Frog and toad |
| Jack and Jill |