

Breaking the 'Aussie' Language Barrier

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This helpful guide will help you to understand our 'aussie's' at the Winter Olympic Games in 2010. If you want to start a conversation or just understand what they may be talking about, this quick check guide will make it easier to communicate and breakdown the language barriers.

So arm yourself with some 'Strine Lingo' (Australian language) to help you understand what people might be saying to you, you never know, you may even develop an Aussie accent.

First, let's take a 'Captain Cook' (look), at an introduction to a 'Fair Dinkum' Aussie male. This usually begins with a firm handshake, followed by, 'G'day Mate, how they hangin' — this is definitely 'for men only', and in no way is open for discussion.



If you happen to be watching a sporting event, you might overhear expressions such as -

'Have a go ya mug', — Spectators obviously want to see more than the game that's being played.

Or if they yell out 'UMPIRE', — there is obviously an umpiring decision error.

'Are you fair dinkum', —the umpire definitely needs glasses.

'What a Yobbo', — what a moron.

'Crikey', — I don't believe it. We actually got a free kick!

'We got done like a dog's dinner', — we lost so bad.

'He's spat the dummy', — He obviously didn't like the umpire's decision.

After the game, you'll probably hear a 'post mortem' held at the local Pub (hotel), over a glass of liquid amber (beer).

'Don't come the raw prawn with me', —I don't believe a word you're saying.

'Thick as a Brick', — considered as an umpire's knowledge of the game.

'My shout', — Stick with this group; you might get a free drink.

'Bloody oath', — is not something from a Mafia handbook, it basically means that everything I say is true, and even more so after a few drinks.

'Ya bloods worth bottlin', — you've obviously done something to please the natives.

'Cobber, Digger, Mate', — It must be your turn for a shout.

'On ya mate', —it was appreciated that they didn't have to tell you it was your turn.

'Bonza mate', — stay with this mob they obviously like you and you might get another free drink.

'Here, wrap your laughin' gear around this', —enjoy your drink!

'You're O.K. Blue!' —you don't happen to have red hair do you?

'I'll be back in two shakes of a lamb's tail', — I'll be back in a minute (the beer has begun to take effect).

At the work place, during a 'smoko' (morning tea break), you might overhear two workers talk about their job, or someone they don't like.

'She'll be right mate?' —However if anything goes wrong, it'll be your fault.

'He wants to know the ins and outs of a duck's arse', — watch this guy, he's after your job!

'He's mad as a two bob watch', — Keep your distance from this guy, he's crazy.

'He's not playing with a full deck', —I wouldn't trust this guy.

'This is Hard Yakka', — this is man's stuff!

'Paddling up shit creek without a paddle', — Ok, I think I'm in trouble.

'Pass me that thingamabob', — Hand me, you know, that tool.

'She's apples', — it's cool!

'He's got a Kangaroo loose in the top paddock', — don't let him use any machinery.

'Stone the crows', — not a native ceremony, but means something of a surprise –good and bad.

'He's built like a brick shithouse', —I would advise keeping your distance from this person.

'Watch him or he'll come down on you like a ton of bricks', —Nothing to do with a bricklayer but just as threatening as the guy above.

'Don't get off ya bike, I'll pump up ya tyres', — Don't stress mate, I'll take care of it.

Just one more thing, Australians have the idea that names should be changed to suit the type of personality of the person they think you are, so don't be surprised if they give you a nickname. If you happen to have a one-syllable first name, they'll give you a two-syllable first name, and vice-versa, or they may even shorten your surname, and then add a vowel to the end of your name, such as Hamilton, would become Hamo, and Mackenzie, would become Macca, etc.

You'll find us a carefree and friendly 'mob'; we enjoy talking to people and making them feel at home, so perhaps after meeting an aussie or three, you may decide to come and visit us downunder...please do, we'd love to have you.