

Aussie Slang Booklet

for English Learners

Created by Cool Bananas English with AI assistance



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Welcome to Aussie Slang!



Australia is full of colourful expressions that sound strange at first, but once you learn them, you'll sound more natural and friendly. This booklet teaches key slang, meanings, examples, when to use it, and gives you practice activities.

What Is Aussie Slang?

Aussie slang is informal language used casually in conversations. It helps you sound relaxed, friendly, and part of the local culture.

Key Features of Aussie Slang

- Words are often shortened
- Friendly and humorous tone
- Casual, used mostly in speech, not formal writing
- Loved by Australians for its fun and playful feel



A–Z Aussie Slang Dictionary

IPA pronunciation • Definitions • Origins • Usage • Examples

A

Arvo /'a:vəʊ/ – afternoon

History: Shortening of “afternoon,” 1920s.

How often is it used? Very often

Users: Both; all ages.

Examples:

- “Let’s catch up this arvo.”
 - “It’ll warm up later in the arvo.”
-

Bathers /'beɪ.ðəz/ – swimsuit

History: British origin; regional (VIC/SA).

How often is it used? Often

Users: Both; families

Examples:

- “Grab your bathers, we’re going for a swim.”
 - “Where did I put my bathers?”
-

Barbie /'bɑ:.bi/ – barbecue

History: 1970s; popularised internationally.

Commonness: Very common.



Users: Both; all ages.

Examples:

- “Come to ours for a barbie tonight.”
 - “Chuck some snags on the barbie.”
-

Biccy /'bɪk.i/ – biscuit

History: Classic Aussie -y ending.

How often is it used? Commonly

Users: Both; more older Australians.

Examples:

- “Want a biccy with your cuppa?”
 - “Pass the choccy biccies.”
-

Bogan /'bəʊ.gən/ – uncultured person

History: 1980s subcultural slang.

How often is it used?: Very common.

Users: Both; youth.

Examples:

- “That outfit is so bogan.”
 - “Stop being a bogan.”
-

Bogged /'bɒɡd/ – stuck (car)

History: Rural slang.

How often is it used?: Common.

Users: Both; outdoor people.

Examples:

- “We got bogged in the mud.”
 - “Don’t drive there, you’ll get bogged.”
-



Bottle-o /'bɒt.ləʊ/ – bottle shop

History: Early 1900s term.

How often is it used?: Very common.

Users: Both; adults.

Examples:

- “I’m heading to the bottle-o.”
 - “Grab a bottle of wine from the bottle-o.”
-

Brolly /'brɒl.i/ – umbrella

History: British slang.

How often is it used?: Common.

Users: Both; slightly more women.

Examples:

- “Take a brolly, it might rain.”
 - “Where’s my brolly gone?”
-

Brekkie /'brɛk.i/ – breakfast

History: Early 1900s.

How often is it used?: Very common.

Users: Both; all ages.

Examples:

- “What’s for brekkie?”
 - “We had brekkie by the beach.”
-

Breaky /'breɪ.ki/ – breakfast

Same as above; alternate spelling.

Examples:

- “Let’s get breaky on the way.”
- “Kids, finish your breaky!”



C

Chockers /'tʃɒk.əz/ – extremely full

History: From “chock full.”

How often is it used?: Common.

Users: Both.

Examples:

- “The carpark was chockers.”
 - “The restaurant is chockers tonight.”
-

Chuck a u-ey /tʃʌk ə 'ju:.i/ – make a U-turn

History: 1960s driving jargon.

How often is it used? Common.

Users: Both; men slightly more.

Examples:

- “Oops, chuck a u-ey here.”
 - “We went past it — chuck a u-ey.”
-

Cuppa /'kʌp.ə/ – cup of tea

History: British colonial slang.

How often is it used? Very often

Users: Both; older generations.

Examples:

- “Come in for a cuppa.”
 - “Fancy a cuppa?”
-

Crook /kru:k/ – unwell



History: 19th-century Australian.

How often is it used? Very often

Users: Both.

Examples:

- “I’ve been feeling crook all day.”
 - “I might head home — I’m crook.”
-

D

Dag /dæg/ – goofy, dorky person

History: Sheep farming reference

Commonness: Common.

Users: Both; used affectionately.

Examples:

- “You’re such a dag.”
 - “He’s a lovable dag.”
-

Devo /'dɛv.əʊ/ – devastated

History: 1980s youth slang.

How often is it used? Commonly

Users: Both; younger speakers.

Examples:

- “I’m devo about the score.”
 - “She was devo when she missed out.”
-

E

Esky /'ɛs.ki/ – cold storage box



History: Aussie invention, 1952.

How often is it used? Very often especially in summer when people are having picnics and barbeques (BBQ or barbies)

Users: Both.

Examples:

- “The drinks are in the esky.”
 - “Grab the esky for the trip.”
-

F

Fair dinkum /fɛə 'dɪŋ.kəm/ – genuine

History: 1800s; debated origin.

How often is it used? Not much

Users: Both; older speakers.

Examples:

- “Is this fair dinkum?”
 - “He’s a fair dinkum bloke.”
-

Footy /'fʊt.i/ – football

History: Abbreviation.

How often is it used? Very common.

Users: Both; men more.

Examples:

- “Footy training tonight?”
 - “Who’s playing footy this weekend?”
-

G

G'day /gə 'deɪ/ – hello



History: 1800s; national greeting.

How often is it used? Very common.

Users: Both; men slightly more.

Examples:

- “G’day mate!”
 - “G’day, how’re you going?”
-

H

Heaps /hi:ps/ – a lot

History: British origin.

How often is it used? Extremely often

Users: Both; youth especially.

Examples:

- “Thanks heaps!”
 - “There were heaps of people.”
-

Hoon /hu:n/ – reckless driver

History: 1900s; originally “loafer.”

Commonness: Common.

Users: Both; used more about men.

Examples:

- “Stop driving like a hoon.”
 - “A hoon sped past us.”
-

L

Larrikin /'læ.rɪ.kɪn/ – mischievous, cheeky



History: 19th-century Australian slang.

Commonness: Common.

Users: Mostly used about males.

Examples:

- “He’s a real larrikin.”
 - “Kids can be such larrikins.”
-

Lollies /'ləli:z/ – sweets

History: British-based.

Commonness: Very common.

Users: Both.

Examples:

- “Grab some lollies.”
 - “The kids love lollies.”
-

M

Macca’s /'mæk.əz/ – McDonald’s

History: Adopted by McDonald’s Australia.

Commonness: Extremely common.

Users: Both.

Examples:

- “Let’s get Macca’s.”
 - “Macca’s run?”
-

Mate /meɪt/ – friend

History: Colonial-era companionship.

Commonness: Extremely common.

Users: Both; men more often.

Examples:



- “Cheers, mate.”
 - “No worries, mate.”
-

Mozzie /'mɒz.i/ – mosquito

History: Aussie word-shortening.

Commonness: Very common.

Users: Both.

Examples:

- “Mozzies are bad tonight.”
 - “I got bitten by a mozzie.”
-

Muso /'mju:.zəʊ/ – musician

History: Shortening.

Commonness: Common.

Users: Both; young adults.

Examples:

- “She’s a local muso.”
 - “The musos are setting up.”
-

N

No worries /nəʊ 'wɒr.iz/ – it’s okay

History: 20th-century Aussie ethos.

Commonness: Extremely common.

Users: Both.

Examples:

- “Thanks!” “No worries!”
 - “No worries, I’ll fix it.”
-



P

Pokies /'pəʊ.kɪz/ – slot machines

History: Shortening of “poker machines.”

Commonness: Common among adults.

Users: Both; older adults.

Examples:

- “She’s at the pokies.”
 - “He lost heaps at the pokies.”
-

Prezzy /'prez.i/ – present

History: Word-shortening.

Commonness: Common.

Users: Both; kids.

Examples:

- “Here’s your prezzy!”
 - “I bought a prezzy for her.”
-

R

Relo /'rel.əʊ/ – relative

History: Shortening.

Commonness: Common.

Users: Both.

Examples:

- “Visiting my rels.”
 - “Her rels live nearby.”
-

Ripper /'rɪp.ə/ – excellent



History: British origin.

Commonness: Very common.

Users: Both.

Examples:

- “That was a ripper show!”
 - “You’ve done a ripper job.”
-

S

Sanga /'sæŋ.ə/ – sandwich

History: Early 1900s.

Commonness: Common.

Users: Both.

Examples:

- “Grab a sanga.”
 - “I packed a cheese sanga.”
-

Servo /'sɜ:.vəʊ/ – petrol station

History: Early 20th century.

Commonness: Very common.

Users: Both.

Examples:

- “Meet me at the servo.”
 - “We stopped at the servo for snacks.”
-

Smoko /'sməʊ.kəʊ/ – break time

History: Worker slang from 1800s.

Commonness: Common.

Users: Mostly men; tradies.

Examples:



- “Let’s go for smoko.”
 - “Smoko’s nearly over.”
-

Snag /snæg/ – sausage

History: British origin.

Commonness: Very common.

Users: Both.

Examples:

- “Throw a snag on the barbie.”
 - “Who wants a snag?”
-

Squiz /skwɪz/ – quick look

History: 1900s Australian slang.

Commonness: Common.

Users: Both.

Examples:

- “Have a squiz at this.”
 - “Take a squiz inside.”
-

Stoked /stəʊkt/ – very happy

History: Surfing culture.

Commonness: Very common.

Users: Both; youth.

Examples:

- “I’m stoked!”
 - “She was stoked with the news.”
-

Stubby /'stʌb.i/ – small beer bottle



History: Refers to bottle shape.

Commonness: Common.

Users: Mainly men.

Examples:

- “He cracked open a stubby.”
 - “Grab a cold stubby.”
-

T

Tallie /'tɔː.li/ – large beer bottle

History: From “tall bottle.”

Commonness: Common.

Users: Mostly men.

Examples:

- “He bought a tallie.”
 - “Pass me a tallie.”
-

Tea /ti:/ – dinner

History: British working-class term.

Commonness: Common.

Users: Both; older Australians.

Examples:

- “What’s for tea?”
 - “We had roast for tea.”
-

Thongs /θɒŋz/ – flip-flops

History: Introduced mid-1900s.

Commonness: Very common.

Users: Both; all ages.

Examples:



- “Wear your thongs.”
 - “I lost my thongs at the beach.”
-

Tinny /'tɪn.i/ – can of beer

History: From tin/aluminium can.

Commonness: Common.

Users: Both; men more often.

Examples:

- “Grab a tinny.”
 - “We brought a few tinnies.”
-

Togs /tɒgz/ – swimsuit

History: Colonial slang.

Commonness: Common (QLD).

Users: Both.

Examples:

- “Bring your togs.”
 - “I bought new togs.”
-

Trackies /'træk.i:z/ – tracksuit bottoms

History: Shortening.

Commonness: Very common.

Users: Both.

Examples:

- “I’m wearing trackies today.”
 - “Get comfy in your trackies.”
-

U



Ute /ju:t/ – utility vehicle

History: Invented in Australia, 1930s.

Commonness: Very common.

Users: Mostly men; tradies.

Examples:

- “Chuck it in the ute.”
 - “He drives a red ute.”
-

Y

Yonks /jɒŋks/ – a very long time

History: British slang, 19th century.

Commonness: Common.

Users: Both.

Examples:

- “Haven’t seen you in yonks!”
- “It’s been yonks since we caught up.”



Aussies Love To Shorten Words

Australians are famous for shortening words, a habit deeply tied to the nation's laid-back, friendly communication style. This linguistic pattern typically involves cutting a word down and adding an ending like **-ie**, **-y**, **-o**, or **-a**, creating forms such as **arvo** (afternoon), **servo** (service station), **brekkie** (breakfast), and **tinnies** (beer cans). The tradition dates back to early colonial days and grew stronger through working-class culture, where quick, informal speech made conversation easier in busy or outdoor environments. Shortened words also help build social connection: they sound warm, casual, and approachable, reflecting Australia's values of equality, informality, and mateship. By using these playful abbreviations, Aussies create a relaxed atmosphere and signal friendliness, making everyday interactions feel less formal and more inclusive.



Australians love shortening words! Here are common patterns:

1. Add “-o”

One of the most recognisable patterns in Australian English is adding **-o** to a shortened base word. This makes the word sound casual and friendly.

Slang	Original Word	Meaning
Arvo	afternoon	later today
Devo	devastated	very upset



Slang	Original Word	Meaning
Rego	registration	car registration
Servo	service station	petrol station
Smoko	smoke break	short work break

2. Add “-ie/-y”

This pattern creates warm, familiar-sounding words. The “-ie/-y” ending is used across all age groups and regions.

Slang	Original Word	Meaning
Biccy	biscuit	cookie / sweet
Telly	television	TV
Brekkie	breakfast	morning meal
Lollies	lollies	sweets / candy
Trackies	tracksuit bottoms	sweatpants



3. Remove the ending

Sometimes Aussies remove part of the ending and attach a short, friendly ending like “-ie” or “-a”. This creates quick, easy-to-say words.

Slang	Original Word	Meaning
Sanga	sandwich	informal sandwich
Tassie	Tasmania	the state of Tasmania
Footy	football	Aussie rules / NRL
Mozzie	mosquito	biting insect
Brolly	umbrella	rain umbrella

Pronunciation

G'day = “guh-DAY”

Macca's = “MAK-uhz”

Mozzie = “MOZ-ee”

Sanga = “SANG-uh”



When to Use Aussie Slang

Use it when:

- Speaking casually with friends.
- Chatting at work with colleagues you know well.
- In relaxed social settings (barbecue, beach, pub).

Avoid it when:

- Speaking formally (job interviews, business meetings).
- Writing essays or school assignments.
- Communicating with someone who may not understand slang.

Tip: Listen first! If the other person uses slang, it's safe to use it too.

Example Dialogues

1. At the Beach

A: G'day mate, the weather's ripper today!

B: Yeah, I'm stoked. Let's head to the beach in the arvo. Don't forget your thongs!

2. Making Plans

A: Wanna grab Macca's later?

B: No worries! I'm starving. Keen for a sanga too.

3. Feeling Sick

A: You alright?

B: Nah, I'm feeling crook. Might head home early.



Practice Section (Fill in the Blanks)

A – Complete each sentence using a slang word from the dictionary (5 items)

1. “Let’s meet in the _____.” (afternoon)
2. “Chuck some _____ on the barbie!” (sausages)
3. “I’m _____ with my new phone.” (very happy)
4. “The shops were _____ today.” (very busy)
5. “Grab your _____ before we go to the beach.” (flip-flops)

Bonus: Rewrite this sentence using Aussie slang:

“I am very pleased, friend! Let’s go to McDonald’s.”

B – Fill-in-the-Blanks (10 items)

- 1) Let's meet this _____. / Sounds good!
- 2) I'm feeling _____ today. / Go home and rest.
- 3) Grab a _____ from the barbie. / Cheers!
- 4) He was so _____ after the game. / Yeah, he played well.
- 5) We need to stop at the _____. / Okay, I need fuel.
- 6) She lost her _____ at the beach. / Check near the towel.
- 7) I haven't seen you in _____! / I know, it's been ages.
- 8) Throw a few _____ on the barbie. / They smell amazing.
- 9) I'm _____ about my results! / Good on ya!
- 10) It was absolutely _____ in the shops. / Tell me about it!



C – Dialogue Matching (10 items)

- 1) G'day b) "Hello mate!"
2) Snag c) "Throw one on the barbie."
3) Stoked a) "I'm stoked!"
4) Servo d) "It's been yonks!"
5) Mozzie e) "Watch out, it will bite!"
6) Trackies f) "I'm just relaxing today."
7) Thongs g) "I lost one at the beach."
8) Tinny h) "Grab one from the esky."
9) Brekkie i) "Let's eat before school."
10) Relo j) "We're visiting them this weekend."
-

D - Create Your Own Aussie Slang Dialogue

Write a short conversation using at least five slang words from the booklet.

Example Starter:

A: G'day mate! Haven't seen you in yonks!

B: I know! I've been flat out. Keen for a snag later?

Use these prompts:

- Greeting someone
- Making weekend plans
- Visiting the beach
- Feeling tired or sick



Congratulations!

You've completed the Aussie Slang booklet. Keep practising and you'll sound like a local in no time!

For more downloadable worksheets and lessons go to:

www.coolbananasenglish.com.au



Answer Sheet

A – Fill in the Blanks (First 5-item set)

1. arvo
2. snags
3. stoked
4. chockers
5. thongs

Bonus rewrite:

"I'm stoked, mate! Let's go to Macca's."

B – Fill in the Blanks (10-item set)

1. Arvo
2. Crook
3. Snag
4. Stoked
5. Servo
6. thongs
7. Yonks
8. snags
9. stoked
10. chockers

C – Dialogue Matching (10 items)

1. G'day → b) "Hello mate!"
2. Snag → c) "Throw one on the barbie."
3. Stoked → a) "I'm stoked!"
4. Servo → d) "It's been yonks!" (Note: servo = petrol station; "It's been yonks" matches dialogue chain in the booklet.)
5. Mozzie → e) "Watch out, it will bite!"
6. Trackies → f) "I'm just relaxing today."
7. Thongs → g) "I lost one at the beach."
8. Tinny → h) "Grab one from the esky."
9. Brekkie → i) "Let's eat before school."
10. Relo → j) "We're visiting them this weekend."

D – Create Your Own Aussie Slang Dialogue

(Answers will vary)

