

Company culture in Australia

COMMUNICATION

LEVEL
Upper-intermediate

NUMBER
EN_BE_3912X

LANGUAGE
English

lingoda

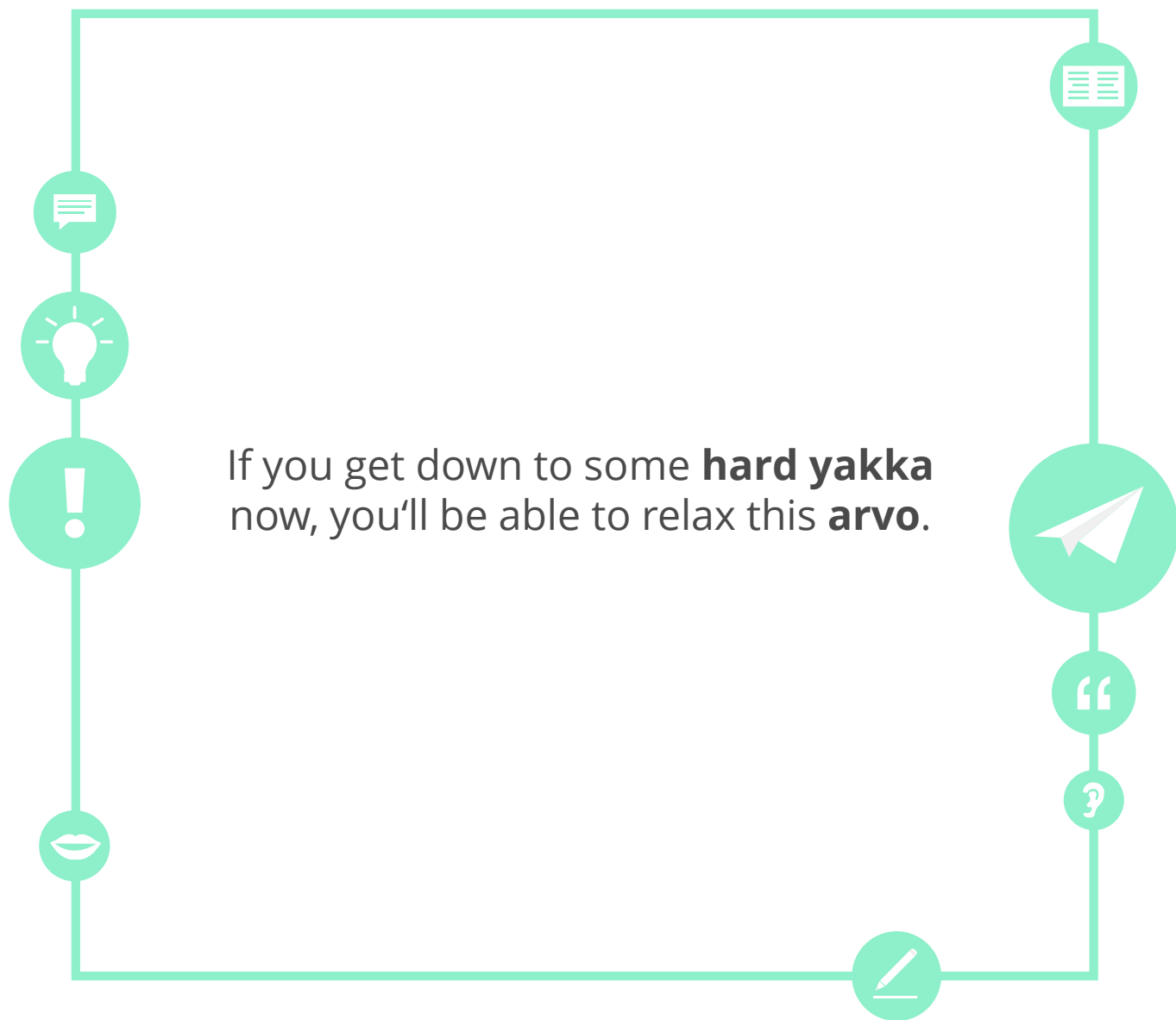




Goals

- Can understand typical business culture and conduct in Australia
- Can use common Australian slang and communicate according to Australian business conduct







Preview and warm-up

- In this lesson you are going to learn about **company culture** in **Australia** and practise **communicating** with and **understanding** Australian people.



Welcome to **The Land Down Under**.



Australia

What do you know about Australia?



climate

geography

people

food



Australia

What do these things have to do with Australia?
Talk with your classmates or check with your teacher if you're not sure.



flag



sport



Australia fact file

Read through the first half of the Australia fact file below.

Australia is often referred to as The Land Down Under due to its geographical position in the southern **hemisphere**. Lots of people think of Australia as one big desert full of snakes and spiders with a few people **scattered** on the coasts, and in some respects this image holds true. However, Australia also has a **booming** economy and is one of the world's most attractive countries for migrants.





Australia fact file

Australia has six states and two mainland territories; the most **populous** is New South Wales and the least populous - by far - is the Northern Territory which has one of the lowest **population densities** in the world. Australia has around 24 million **inhabitants** and they mainly live in coastal cities like Sydney and Melbourne.

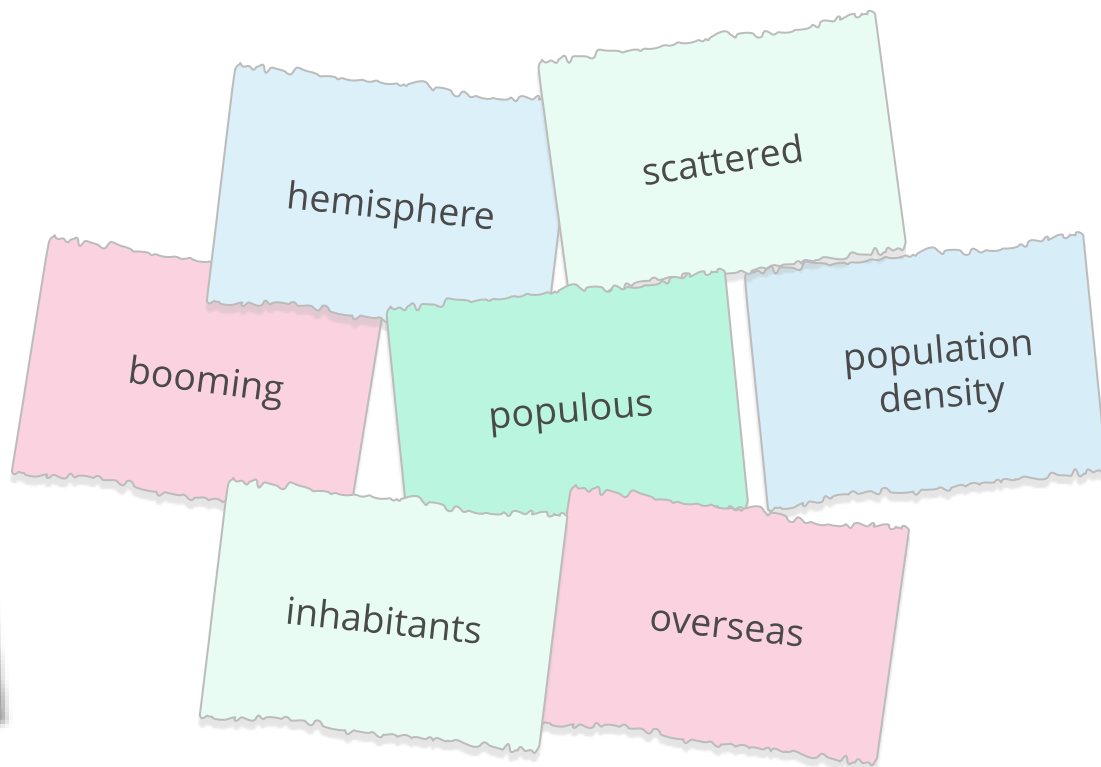
More than a quarter of the people living in Australia were born **overseas** and, despite strict immigration laws, migration is a major factor in population growth.





Vocabulary

Do you know what these words and phrases from the text mean?
Why are they relevant to Australia?





Australian stereotypes

Do you know of any Australian stereotypes?





States and territories

Do you know anything about the different states and territories in Australia? Which ones would you like to visit?



Western Australia

Tasmania



Australia fact file

Now read through the second half of the Australia fact file.

Australia has a high standard of living and a very high **GDP per capita**. Like most developed countries, Australia's economy is largely based around the **service sector**, including IT, finance, tourism and the media. Australia is rich in **natural resources** such as coal and iron ore, and the country experienced a mining boom in the 2000s. The two largest mining companies in the world are based in Australia. Australia exports a lot of its resources to East Asia, particularly China, as well as the USA and Europe.

Australians have 4 weeks holiday entitlement per year, though many workers get longer than this, and they are encouraged to take their holidays.





Australia fact file

The **hierarchy** in Australian companies tends to be quite flat, so while respect should be shown to your boss you should also think of them as an equal. Everyone is called by their first name in Australian companies, never by their title and surname. **Dress codes**, however, remain formal and a shirt and suit or a smart dress are acceptable; however, in the very hot parts of the country the dress code can be more relaxed. And remember, in Australia summers are from November until March.

English is the language of communication in Australia, though it may not be English as you know it. Australians tend to be more **direct** than their UK counterparts in conversation at work, and efficiency is valued in meetings: if you have something to say just say it – don't **beat around the bush**.





What did the text say about these things?

GDP per capita

service sector

natural resources

hierarchy at work

dress codes

directness



Australian companies

The text mentioned that two of the largest mining companies in the world are based in Australia.

Do you know of any other companies that are based in Australia or that have offices there?





Beating around the bush

The text mentioned that Australians don't *beat around the bush* like their British friends. Which of the sentences below might you hear in the UK and which in Australia? Which is more familiar to you?

“Excuse me, I'm dreadfully sorry to disturb you but when you have a moment would you mind taking a peek at the presentation I've prepared?”

“Take a look at this presentation when you've got a minute. Cheers.”





Company culture

**Does the company culture in Australia sound similar to your country?
Would you find it hard to adapt?**



Australian English

The text mentioned that **Australians** speak a different variation of **English** than people from the UK or the USA.

Not only is the **accent, pronunciation** and **intonation** different, but they also use **different words** for everyday things, including using lots of **slang**, even in the workplace.



G'day mate, long time no see!



Intonation

- In **British English**, speakers only use a **rising intonation** when asking a **question** (the **interrogative**).
- However, in **Australian English**, speakers also sometimes use a **rising intonation** in clauses within **declarative** sentences (e.g. before a comma).
- So beware: Australians aren't always asking a question, even if it sounds like they are.

British English

Have you ever met Mr Wu?

I haven't met Mr Wu yet, but I will soon.

Australian English

Have you ever met Mr Wu?

I haven't met Mr Wu yet, but I will soon.



Spelling rules

- **Australian English** uses the **same spelling** conventions as **British English**.
- Look at the table below for a recap of the main **differences** between American English and British and Australian English.

British/Australian English	American English
colour, behaviour	color, behavior
centre, theatre	center, theater
apologise, organisation	apologize, organization
travelling, fuelled	traveling, fueled



Australian slang

- As mentioned in the text, **Australians** use **slang** at work, so it is important to learn some of the most commonly used words and phrases to understand your **Aussie co-workers**.
- Below are some slang words connected to **work**.

Australian slang	→	meaning
prezo	→	presentation
doco	→	document
spready	→	spreadsheet
journos	→	a journalist
tradie	→	a tradesman/woman



Australian slang

- Here is some more **Aussie slang** that you might encounter at **work**.

slang	meaning
arvo	afternoon
hard yakka	hard work
g'day	hi/hello
gone walkabout	gone missing
mates rates	a discount (given because the buyer knows the seller)

slang	meaning
chuck a sickie	take a day off sick
crook	ill
footy	Aussie rules football/rugby
smoko	a break at work
servo	petrol station



Australian slang



That **doco's** gone **walkabout**.

I'm giving a **prezo** this **arvo**.



John's **chucked a sickie** today – he didn't fancy the **hard yakka**.

Tom's a **tradie**, he'll give you **mates rates** if you ask nicely.





Smoko



- Even though **smoko** originally came from the term **smoke break**, it now means a **break** from work generally.
- There are **heavy restrictions** on where people can **smoke** in Australia and the number of smokers there is declining rapidly.



Your Australian colleagues are much more likely to have a coffee or a snack than a cigarette during their **smoko**.



Speaking

**Have you heard
someone speaking
Australian English
before?**

**Do you think it is
easy or difficult to
understand?**

**Have you noticed
the rising
intonation in
declarative
sentences?**

**Do you know any
more Aussie slang?**



Transform the sentences from Aussie slang to standard English

1. That doco's gone walkabout.

→ That document's gone missing.

2. I'm feeling a bit crook so I won't have that prezzy ready today.

→ _____

3. G'day mate, did you see the footy last night?

→ _____

4. 10 o'clock – smoko time!

→ _____

5. Finishing that spready was real hard yakka.

→ _____



Australian slang

Match some more Australian slang terms (in the two columns on the left hand side) with their meanings (on the right).

barbie

brekkie

swimsuit

sunglasses

moszie

good on ya

barbecue

mosquito

bathers

sunnies

breakfast

good work



Aussie slang

Write three sentences in Aussie slang.

journos

brekkie





Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

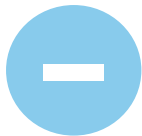
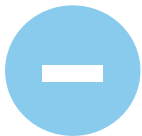
no





Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again





Answer key

Exercise p. 6

Clockwise from top left:
The aboriginal flag.

Grapes growing, symbolising Australian wine-growing regions – Australia is the fourth largest exporter of wine in the world.

The Coat of Arms of Australia: a kangaroo and an emu with a shield showing the six states' symbols.

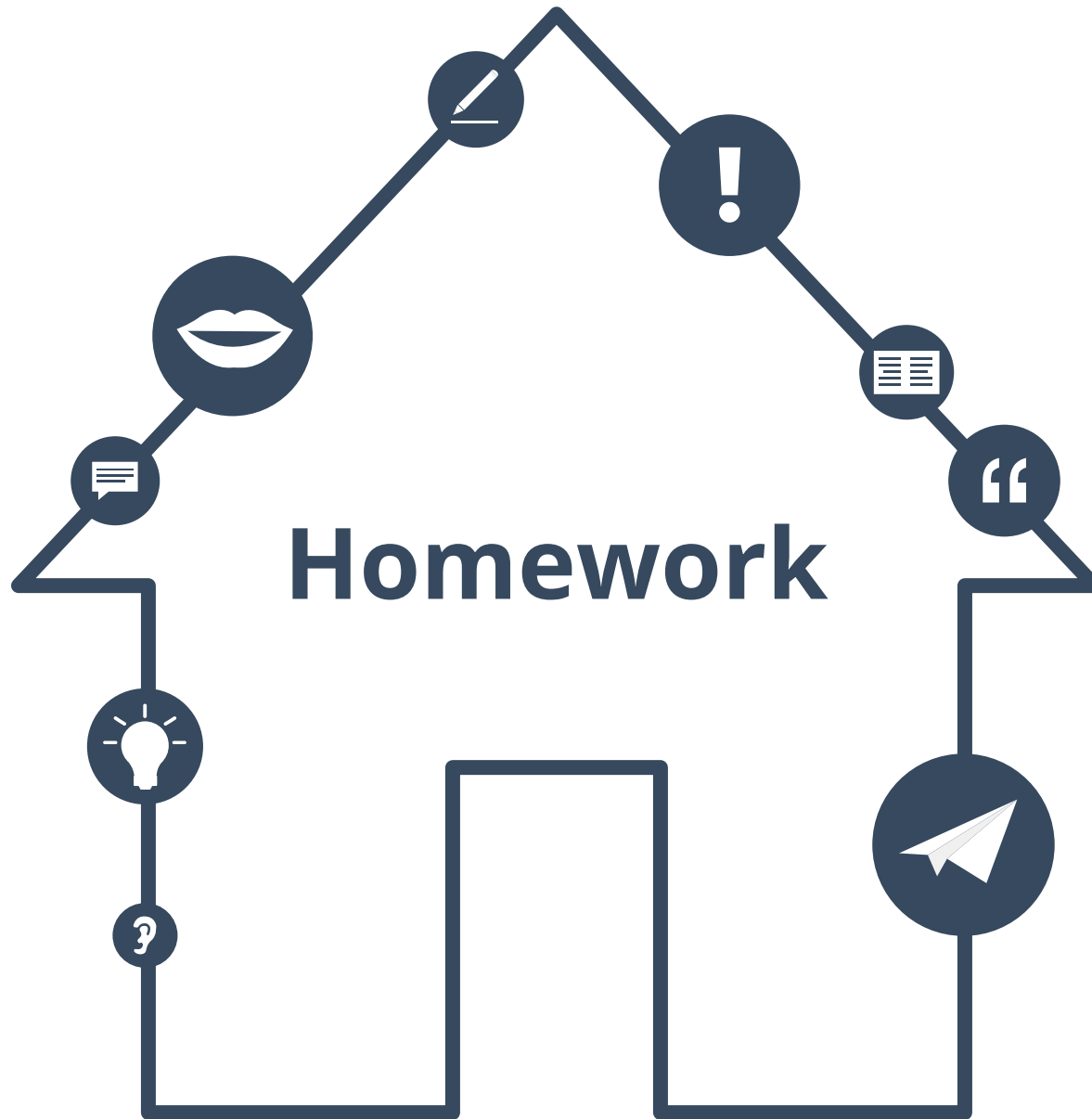
Cricket is a popular sport in Australia.

Exercise p. 26

2. I'm feeling a bit ill so I won't have that presentation ready today. 3. Hi, did you see the Australian football last night? 4. 10 o'clock – break time! 5. Finishing that spreadsheet was really hard work.

Exercise p. 27

barbie – barbecue, brekkie – breakfast, mozzie – mosquito, good on ya – good work, bathers – swimsuit, sunnies – sunglasses.





Fill in the gaps

The _____ in Australian workplaces is quite flat, which means you can call your boss by their _____. However, it (probably) doesn't mean you can go to work in shorts, and a _____ and trousers is usually appropriate.

You should be _____ when you are speaking to colleagues – don't beat around the _____. Additionally, your Australian colleagues will speak a different type of English to Brits and Americans. For example, they use a lot of slang and their _____ often rises in declarative sentences.

bush

hierarchy

intonation

first name

direct

shirt



Aussie slang

Write a paragraph in Aussie slang here. Try to make sure it makes sense and use as many words from the lesson as you can.

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Homework answer key

Exercise p. 33

hierarchy, first name, shirt, direct, bush, intonation

