

Australian stereotypes

1 True or false?

Does a “typical” Australian actually exist? Of course, there is no shortage of popular stereotypes. Many of these images have some truth to them and most Australians conform to at least some of them. But Australians, like people everywhere, cannot be so easily stereotyped. There are “typical” Australians everywhere. But they are not all the same.



a) Look at the following stereotypes. Think for a moment if you believe the stereotypes to be true and then tick either “true” (T) or “false” (F).

T	F		T	F	
		Koalas are the most popular pets in Australia.			Australians are pretty relaxed about everything.
		Australians love to have barbecues on many occasions.			Most Australians love their slang which no foreigner understands.
		Crocodile wrestling is a test of courage for many Australian students.			Australians stack as much food as possible on their plate instead of taking seconds.
		Most Australians live by the beach and go surfing on a Monday morning.			Many Australians love to wear hats with corks hanging from them.
		It almost never rains in Australia.			Typically, Australians are not very punctual.
		Many Australian schoolkids use their kangaroos to get to school.			Australia has such a small population that everyone knows everybody.
		Australians are proud of their country and love celebrations.			Most Australians are not really into politics. Elections are mandatory though.
		Australians love everything you can do outside, particularly sports.			Australians are so keen to volunteer at events that there are often more volunteers than jobs.

- b) Try to find out if your guesses are true or false by checking those myths online.
c) Correct the sentences that are false and rewrite them as true statements.

2 The new typical Australian

- a) Go to the following page, choose a specific territory of Australia and read this section.
<https://www.news.com.au/national/new-typical-australian-is-a-38-year-old-married-mumoftwo-whose-parents-were-both-born-in-australia-the-census-says/news-story/15ad75f0aa101b25dce708cd7dc6dccc5>
- b) Write a continuous text about this territory and link two statements by using relative clauses. If you are not sure how to do it, search for the words **who**, **which**, **whose** and **that** on the page.

Example:

Text on the internet:

But like the national data, the typical Aussie in NSW is a 38-year-old married mum of two. She lives in a three-bedroom home – that she owns, unlike the typical Australian nationally – and does up to 14 hours of housework a week.

Your text:

The typical Aussie in NSW (New South Wales) is a 38-year-old married mum of two who lives in a three-bedroom house that ...

Key:

1 True or false?

T	F	
	✓	Koalas are the most popular pets in Australia.
✓		Australians love to have barbecues on many occasions.
	✓	Crocodile wrestling is a test of courage for many Australian students.
	✓	Most Australians live by the beach and go surfing on a Monday morning.
✓		It almost never rains in Australia.
	✓	Many Australian schoolkids use their kangaroos to get to school.
✓		Australians are proud of their country and love celebrations.
✓		Australians love everything you can do outside, particularly sports.

T	F	
✓		Australians are pretty relaxed about everything.
	✓	Most Australians love their slang which no foreigner understands.
✓		Australians stack as much food as possible on their plate instead of taking seconds.
	✓	Many Australians love to wear hats with corks hanging from them.
✓		Typically, Australians are not very punctual.
	✓	Australia has such a small population that everyone knows everybody.
✓		Most Australians are not really into politics. Elections are mandatory though.
✓		Australians are so keen to volunteer at events that there are often more volunteers than jobs.