

Learn to sound like a real Aussie



1 What's it all about?

"You certainly can't tell an Australian by the way they look, but the minute they open their mouths, the guessing is over." So says the programme summary for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's 2007 documentary *The Sounds of Aus*. In this lesson, you'll get to know the main aspects of the Australian accent and you can try to sound like a real Aussie yourself.

a) First, make sure you understand the following words. Use an internet dictionary if you're not sure.

to isolate sound vowel consonant to pronounce
ridiculous to disappear Cockney key (adj.)

b) Watch the video by Gareth Jameson to find out more about the basics of the Australian accent. As the video is quite fast at some points, please read along with the transcript. Fill in the gaps with the example words and phrases Gareth uses.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QVgiG7_Ey9k

[...] The key to any accent is to isolate the specific sounds that occur in that accent. So, when we look at the Australian accent, we'll be looking at which vowel sounds and which consonants are used in Australia.

So, let's start with the "i" sound that I would normally pronounce as "like" (1), " _____ " (2) and " _____ " (3). For Australians, this becomes a little bit like "oi" in "oil". Don't go that far, though, so don't say "loik", "roight". This sounds ridiculous. It's all like " _____ " (4) and " _____ " (5) and " _____ " (6). " _____ " (7). " _____ " (8). " _____ " (9).

Listen again to that word " _____ " (10). That's R-I-G-H-T. Right. " _____ " (11). You'll notice that the "t" has disappeared from the end of the word. This is called a "glottal stop" and it's very common in Australia. The way you want to make your glottal stop – if you don't know how to do it – is to start with the phrase "uh-oh". "Uh-oh". And it's the little sound you get in the middle of that "uh-oh". So try putting that on the end of your word " _____ " (12). " _____ " (13).

If this sounds a little bit like Cockney to you, there's a reason for this. The Australian accent developed from ... people from the south-east of England who went to live in Australia. And their accent changed, though it is very similar. The sound cockney "oi" in " _____ " (14) is the same as the Australian " _____ " (15). But there is a difference here. If you have got a Cockney accent and you want to turn it into an Australian one the best bet is to change your voice from a dry sound to a twangy sound. So we go from " _____ " (16) to " _____ " (17) ... real twang.

Also, Australians tend to have a high-rising terminal. That's a technical term for sentences that go up at the end ... like this. Sometimes called the Australian question inflection. Goes up like this.

Now, that's very easy to do and some people find it annoying, but it is key to that Australian accent. So you've got the difference between a cockney " _____ " (18) and an Australian " _____ " (19) going up at the end.

Let's also look at the "a" sound as in " _____ " (20). This becomes more like "ay". So – " _____ " (21), " _____ " (22) ... going up, and you notice again going up at the end: " _____ " (23). [...]

2 Listen and repeat

Watch another video on learning the Australian accent, which was done by Awesome Alanna. She talks about different aspects of the Australian pronunciation, so together with what Gareth said you'll get a pretty good idea of how Australian English sounds. And then it's all just ... "Listen and repeat"!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dG0v9tZStAk>

Key:**1 What's it all about?**

1. like; **2.** right; **3.** live; **4.** like; **5.** right; **6.** live; **7.** Right; **8.** Sign; **9.** Live; **10.** right; **11.** Right; **12.** right; **13.** Right; **14.** Alright mate; **15.** Alright mate; **16.** Alright mate; **17.** Alright mate; **18.** Alright mate; **19.** Alright mate; **20.** no way; **21.** no way; **22.** No way; mate; **23.** No way, mate