



*Aussie, Kiwi and South  
African Accents*

# Accents

Accents develop as individuals who speak the same language in a specific location adopt the same way of pronouncing their vowels and consonants for particular words and phrases.

Accents signify not only where we come from but also our socio-economic background.

According to the sociolinguist definition, an accent is “a manner of pronunciation peculiar to a particular individual, location, or nation.”



# The Aussie Accent

How did it develop?

The Aussie accent is a **blend** of the accents and dialects of the first settlers who came to Australia.

The dialects of **South East England** including the traditional **cockney** dialect of London were influential in constructing the Australian accent (wide diphthongs).

There is also the influence of **Irish** English as well as the native accent of Australian **Aboriginals**.

It is noteworthy that the Australian accent is pretty consistent across the country.



# The Aussie Accent

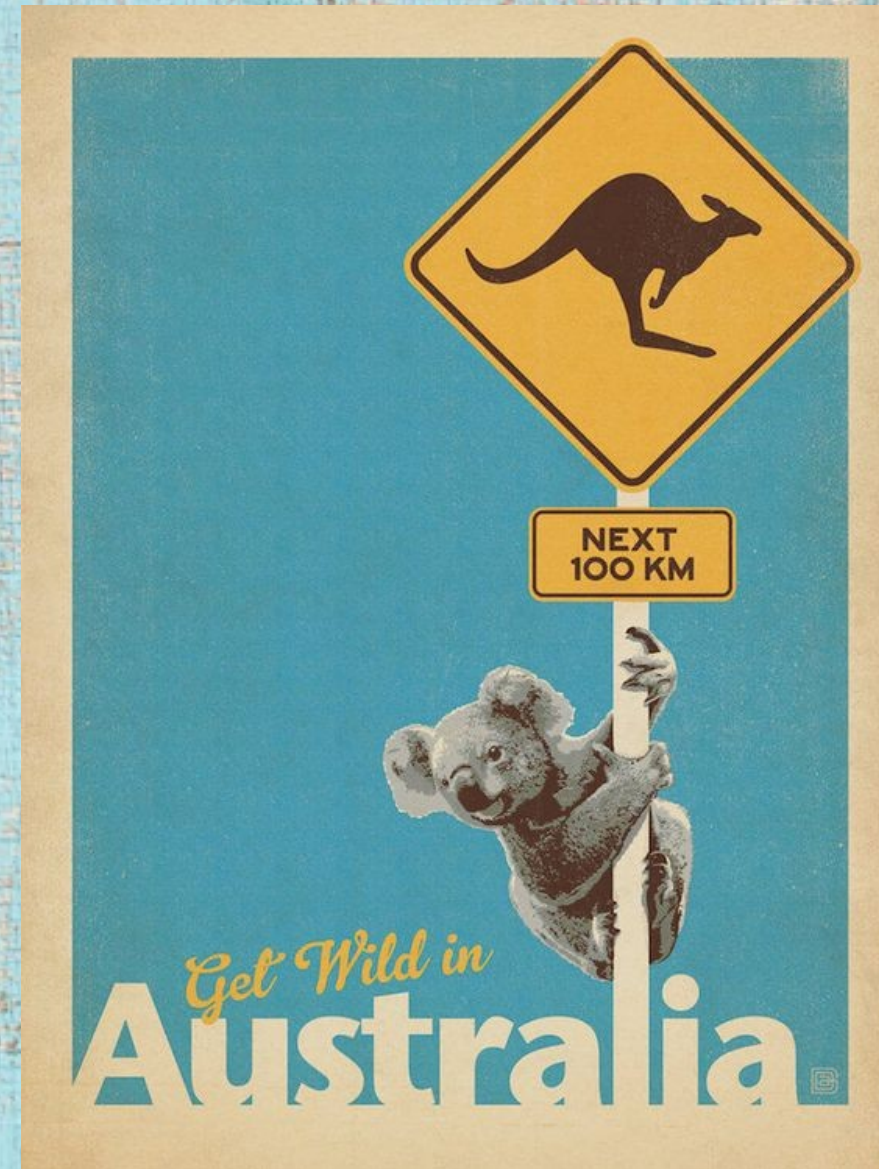
There are 3 different versions of Aussie accent that should be discerned:

1. **General:** the most common one which most Australians speak.

2. **Broad:** spoken by people who live in more rural areas (the bush); isolated and less affected by RP influence.

3. **Cultivated:** the least Australian sounding; usually spoken by high society.

These versions are collectively referred to as **“mainstream Australian English”**.



# Examples:

1. General Australian accent: from a popular Aussie reality tv show:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WSShYNDKwYI&t=13s&pp=ygUzZG9tZW5pY2EgY2FsYXJjbyAgdGh1eSBoYXZlIGJlZW4gdGFsa2luZyBhYm91dXQgaGVy>

2. Cate Blanchett (Cultivated Aussie Accent)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dti6XC15AWA>

# Main Features of Aussie

## Accent

Use of inflection, intonation at the end of the sentence: High Rising Terminal (HRT); a very common intonation pattern.

➤ Finishing declarative sentences using **high intonation**: as if the speaker is asking a question.

Heavily **nasalized** vowel sounds and **flapping** the medial /t/ : a soft /d/ sound.

Little : liddle

Australians like to **shorten and abbreviate** their words: brekkie, dins, avo,

Dropping the last letter of words like “running” or “crying” to : ‘runnin’, ‘cryin’.

It is a **non-rhotic** variety of spoken English.



# Tips to sound like an Aussie:

**1** Drop the R sound from the end of words and replace it with an 'ah.'  
For example, instead of 'forever,' you would say 'forev-ah.'



**2** Keep your intonation steady, quick, and soft.  
Picture a long, constant stream of words coming out as if the entire sentence is one whole word. To do this, try not to move your tongue so much.

**3** Soften the T at the end of words.  
When you say the word, 'right,' you want to sound more like 'r-eye.'



**4** Cut off the ō from words ending with '-ing.'  
Generally, the Australian accent cuts words short. So that 'catching' sounds like 'cat-chn.'

**5** Raise your voice towards the ends of the sentence.  
Simply raise your voice towards the end of a sentence as if you were asking a question.



**6** Shorten the word and add an '-ie.'  
There are a lot of Australian slang words that are simply shortened and made to rhyme with 'see.' This is where the phrase 'barbie' (for barbeque) comes from.

**7** Use 'as' at the end of sentences to provide emphasis.  
For example, 'That movie was sweet as, mate!'



# *The kiwi accent:*

Like the Australian accent, the kiwi accent is based on different accents, mainly the **South East England** one with Scottish, **Irish** and **Australian** thrown into the mix.

It is a little softer sounding than the Australian accent.

There are two versions of the Kiwi Accent:


























1. **The North Island version:** non-rhotic variety: "car" is pronounced as 'ca'.

2. **The South Island version:** Southlanders roll their **'r's** due to the Scottish influence.





# Key kiwi words :

 <p><b>A</b> is for Arm Uttered when thinking.</p>	 <p><b>B</b> is for Bull What you're charged for the meal.</p>	 <p><b>C</b> is for Cuds Children.</p>	 <p><b>D</b> is for Donut Long version of don't.</p>	 <p><b>E</b> is for Ear What we breathe.</p>
 <p><b>F</b> is for Fush Sea creatures.</p>	 <p><b>G</b> is for Guess Used for cooking or heating.</p>	 <p><b>H</b> is for Hull Land which isn't flat.</p>	 <p><b>I</b> is for Ice cream What I do when the All Blacks lose.</p>	 <p><b>J</b> is for Jug Type of Irish dance.</p>
 <p><b>K</b> is for Ken's Popular holiday city in Queensland.</p>	 <p><b>L</b> is for lust Something you write before going shopping.</p>	 <p><b>M</b> is for Milburn Capital of Victoria.</p>	 <p><b>N</b> is for Nutter To have a yarn.</p>	 <p><b>O</b> is for One doze A pane of glass in a wall.</p>
 <p><b>P</b> is for Pigs Found on a clothes line.</p>	 <p><b>Q</b> is for Quad Slang term for a British Pound Note.</p>	 <p><b>R</b> is for Rung Piece of jewellery.</p>	 <p><b>S</b> is for Sucks The number after five.</p>	 <p><b>T</b> is for Tin The number after nine.</p>
 <p><b>U</b> is for Undies West Undies. Good at cricket.</p>	 <p><b>V</b> is for Volley Area between two hulls.</p>	 <p><b>W</b> is for Windy A girls name.</p>	 <p><b>X</b> is for Xylophone It's the same in any langwidge.</p>	 <p><b>Y</b> is for Yuppie An expression of delight.</p>

# Characteristics of Kiwi

## accent:

Substituting the short [æ] with [a] (following RP) or [e].

Eg: ask, answer, after

Vs apple, cash, hat, have

Substituting [e] with [ɪ]

Eg: spend, led, epic, mess

Substituting [ɪ] with unstressed schwa /ə/

Eg: witch, dig, ship, lip, vision

**High Rising inflection** or upspeak is also common in Kiwi accent.



# *Example :*

Lorde interview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0-isrENxyk>

*South African Accent:*

Or the “South African

Eccent”

South Africa is the fifth largest native English-speaking country in the world.

To an untrained ear, South African English sounds similar to Australian and New Zealand English.

it was heavily influenced by **Afrikaans** and other Southern African Languages (Xhosa and Zulu in particular)



# Characteristics:

- It is a **non-rhotic** variety of English.
- The prevocalic and intervocalic **/r/** sound is more of a fricative than the approximant type found in most other kinds of English (audible friction).
  - RP **/ɪ/** is normally realized as **/e/** in South African English.
  - Hitting the consonants very hard  
“What a fright I got”



# *Example :*

Trevor Noah:

<https://youtu.be/MhCEdlqFCck>

*Thanks for your attention*