

Australian-American Dictionary

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A-4	standard Aust. paper size - longer and narrower than American 8 1/2 x 11 -- about 8 1/4 x 11 5/8
abattoir	slaughterhouse
about -- to look about	around -- to look around
ablutions block	building with showers, toilets -- part of public parks, etc. in Aust.
Abo	offensive term for Aborigine
Aborigines, Aborigines	the original Australians
accelerator	gas pedal, accelerator
address -- pronounced aADDRESS	pron. aADDRESS or ADDRESS (depending on dialect)
adult -- pron. aDULT	pron. aDULT or ADult (depending on dialect)
Advance Australia Fair	national song of Australia (anthem is God Save the Queen)
advert	ad, advertisement
aerogramme	air letter, aerogram (little known in U.S., though available)
aeroplane	airplane
afternoon -- pron. AFternoon	pron. afterNOON
the Alice	Alice Springs, town of about 25,000 in center of continent
allotment	plot of land for vegetable garden
almoner	(hospital) social worker
Alsatian (dog)	German shepherd
aluMINium	aLUminum
anorak	parka
ant bed	termite mound
antivenene	antivenin (against snakebite)
Anzac Day	April 25, the anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli in W.W. I
any road -	anyway
I didn't like it any road	I didn't like it anyway
arse	ass (rump), anus, asshole
arvo	afternoon
ass	donkey, fool (never "rump" as in U.S.)
at:	of
as at the 30th of June	as of June 30th
aubergine	eggplant
Aussie (pronounced Ozzie!!!)	Australian
Australia Day	holiday (Jan. 26), anniversary of European settlement at Sydney in 1788
Australian Rules	Australian National Football (nothing to do with American football, which Aust. call "gridiron")
autumn (never "fall")	fall

backbencher	member of legislature other than a minister or shadow cabinet member
backblocks	boonies
bag (from "bag of fruit")	suit (of clothes) (rhyming slang)
banger	kind of sausage
barra or barramundi	very tasty kind of fish (ocean perch), often used for fish 'n' chips in the North
barrister	lawyer who represents clients in court (see solicitor)
to bash someone up	to beat someone up
to bathe	to go swimming
bathers	bathing suit
bathroom	room for taking a bath (often does not contain a toilet)
battler	person who keeps trying in the face of adversity; = U.S. "fighter", maybe? "that's great"
beaut - "that's beaut"	beats
beetroot	pron. BerNARD
Bernard - pron. BERNard (name)	cookie
bickie (from "biscuit")	biker (motorcycle rider)
bikie	bill for services; also check (in restaurant); see note
bill	stagnant pool which is offshoot of river
billabong	trillion (a million million)
billion	large can for boiling tea in while camping out
billy	to fight like hell
billy-o -- to fight like billy-o	ball-point
biro (pron. BY-roe)	cookie
biscuit	tarred road, road paved with asphalt
bitumen (pron. BITCH-uh-men)	very far away
black stump -- beyond the black stump	frilled-neck lizard - one with collapsible frill which can be raised over neck
blanket lizard	lot; also subdivision for building "please type or print"
block (of land)	guy
"block letters, please" (on form)	ubiquitous Aust. adjective used much like "damned": "this bloody thing". Also as infix: abso-bloody-lutely
bloke	to not do one's fair share, live off someone else, be a parasite, to cadge (as a cigarette)
bloody	parasite
to bludge	redhead, bill, traffic ticket, argument, mistake
bludger (worst Aussie epithet)	female red kangaroo
blue	cattle dog, off-white with blue spots
blue flyer	kind of lizard; handyman on station (ranch)
blue heeler	swag (q.v.); = blue (above)
bluetongue	to swim
bluey	hood
to bogie	to reserve (also, increasingly, "to book" in the U.S. too)
bonnet (of car)	sold out
to book (a room, flight)	reservations office
booked out	large male kangaroo
booking office	
boomer	

bonnet (of car)	hood
boong	very offensive word for Aboriginal or Melanesian
boot (of car)	trunk
bore	deep artesian well
bowl	ball used in playing bowls
bowls	kind of game – lawn bowls
Bowser	gasoline pump
the box	the idiot box, T.V.
Boxing Day	holiday -- the day after Christmas
braces	suspenders
break:	
"break it down"	"stop it"
brekkie, brekker	breakfast – may consist of such amazing things as cold canned spaghetti (or beans) on toast
brickie	bricklayer
broad Australian	speech of less educated Australians
brownie	kind of sweet bread made with brown sugar and currants; in U.S. is caky/fudgy chocolate thing with nuts in it
brumby, brumbie	mustang (wild horse)
brunch coat	housecoat, bathrobe, housedress
budgie (from budgerigar)	parakeet, budgie
bugger:	
"I'm buggered"	"I'm exhausted"
"Bugger off"	"Get out of here"
to bugger up	to mess up, ruin
building society	savings and loan association (roughly)
(built-in) wardrobe	closet
bull bar (or roo bar)	cattle guard on front of vehicle
bulldust	nonsense; a very fine powdery dust
bullock	steer, head of cattle
bum	ass, buttocks, bottom (also means "tramp", "hobo" in U.S.)
bundle	= <u>swag</u> (q.v.)
to drop your bundle	to give up, panic
bung -- to go bung	to break down
bunyip	legendary monster of Outback
the bush	the wilderness (in U.S. only means "shrub")
bushie	person living in the Outback
bushranger	criminal living in the bush
busker	street musician
but -- "I didn't go, but."	though -- "I didn't go, though."
butcher's hook <u>or</u> butcher's	look; <u>crook</u> (q.v.) (rhyming slang)
butchery	butcher's shop (in U.S. "butchery" means "murder")
butt (of ticket)	stub
to buy off the peg	to buy off the rack

cable, to cable	telegram, to telegram
cadge -- to cadge (Aborigines pronounce it "cage")	to borrow without returning
C.A.E. -- see <u>college</u>	
calico cat	calico cat, money cat
call -- to call	to call, but does not mean "to phone" as it does in the U.S. See <u>ring</u> .
camp	gay, homosexual
camp bed	(folding camp) cot
candy floss	cotton candy
capsicum	green pepper/Bell pepper
caravan	house trailer (not huge double-width one as in U.S. -- see <u>demountable</u> )
caravan annexe	canvas extension to such a trailer
carbie	carburetor
cardigan	sweater (word "sweater" not used in Australia), cardigan
car park	parking lot
car repayments	car payments
car smash	auto accident, car crash
castor sugar	superfine sugar (rare in U.S.)
Casualty Ward (sign in hospital)	Emergency Room
catscan	CAT scan
caucasian	white person, white, Caucasian ("Caucasian" used in the U.S. mainly in police reports)
the Centre, Centralia	the desert center of Australia
chain - to have chains on your ankles	to be a descendant of early white settlers (convicts) -- matter of pride in Australia, like being a <u>Mayflower</u> descendant in U.S.
chap	guy
cheeky	bold, impudent, insolent; (of plants) poisonous
cheese (from "cheese and kisses")	Mrs., missus, wife (rhyming slang)
chemist	pharmacist, druggist (in the U.S. "chemist" means "expert in chemistry")
chemist's	drugstore
cheque account	checking account
chewie	(chewing) gum
chicken	chick (baby chicken)
child endowment	money paid by Aust. government to parents of child
child-minding centre	day-care center
china (from "china plate")	= <u>mate</u> , q.v. (rhyming slang)
Chinese coil	sort of incense coil burned to keep mosquitos away, not found in U.S.
chips - hot chips	French fries ("chips" alone may mean either this or potato chips as in the U.S.)
choko	vegetable sort of like cucumber
chook	(live) adult chicken
Christian name	first name
cleaner	janitor, maid
clerk -- pronounced "clark"	pronounced "clurk"
clothes pegs	clothes pins
cluey	bright, on the ball
coach	bus for long distance runs
cobber	friend
cock	rooster -- "cock" means "penis" in the U.S.
cocky	cockatoo (bird); small farmer/ <u>grazier</u> (q.v.)
coffee sugar	Demerara sugar (large beige crystals of raw sugar) (almost unknown in U.S.)

college	adult educational institute (not university or American-style college) or private high school
college of advanced education (C.A.E.)	teacher's college
coloured	part-Aboriginal
combo, to combo	white man who lives with an Aboriginal woman, to do this
to come at	to agree to do
to come good	to get better (from bad state), get fixed
to come the. . . (see <u>prawn</u> )	to act like a. . .
to come to light with	to produce
comic (from "comic cuts")	guts (rhyming slang)
Commo	Communist (party is legal in Australia)
common room (in university, etc.)	faculty lounge
Commonwealth government	Federal government
compere, to compere	host/hostess on TV or radio show, to host (show)
compo	workman's compensation
concession	discount
concessions (on tax form)	medical, funeral, educational, adoption, mortgage interest, life insurance, retirement deductions
conchie	conscientious objecter
conscript, to conscript	draftee, to draft
cooe! - "within cooe"	yoo-hoo! - "nearby"
the cool	cool weather
coolamon	wooden/bark container for water, also used as baby cradle (Aboriginal)
to cop:	
"Cop this!"	"Look at this!"
to cop it sweet	to be lucky
a sure cop	a dead certainty
to cop a salute	to get a good welcome? to win approval?
coppertail	member of working class (opp. silvertail)
cordial (pron. COR-di-al)	drink like Kool-Aid
corduroy (early N. Queensland)	log-reinforced river crossing for vehicles
cornflour	cornstarch
corroboree	Aboriginal dance; social gathering
cossie (from swimming <u>costume</u> ) <i>or cozzie</i>	bathing suit; (in ads) swimsuit
cot (for babies)	crib
cotton	cotton; but also "thread"
cotton bud	Q-tip, cotton swab
cotton wool	cotton batting
council rates	real-estate taxes
counterfoil	check stub
course (in college)	program of study
crackers	crazy, nuts
crawler	brown-nose (vulgar term), servile person
to create	to make a fuss
creche	?nursery school, day-care center
crim	criminal
crisp-bread	?Melba toast?
crisps	potato chips
cronk	unsound, liable to break down; phony
crook:	
"She's crook"	"It's not working" / "She's sick"
to go crook at/on someone	to get mad at someone

to cross a cheque

Crown land

crust - "What do you do for a crust?"

crutch

cuey

cupmaori (and other spellings - North Queensland)

cuppa

curette

cushion

custard

cyclone

to put two diagonal lines with "Not Negotiable" between them across your check - this because Aust. checks are made out to payee OR BEARER - crossing prevents cashing the check; it must be deposited

government-owned land, Federal land

"What do you do for a living?"

crutch; but also "crotch"

cucumber

earth oven (q.v.)

cup of tea or coffee

D and C

pillow

liquid custard-like mixture poured over fruit etc. as dessert

Indian Ocean hurricane

dam	dam and/or its associated reservoir
Dame	women's title from Royal Honours List, equiv. to Sir for a man
damper	kind of very dense 'bread' made in hot ashes when camping out
dark (person)	part-Aboriginal
Dead Heart	desert centre of Australia
death adder/deaf adder	kind of poisonous snake
death duties	inheritance tax
Deep North	Queensland (racially, the Mississippi of Australia)
de facto	live-in lover, POSSLO -- counts as spouse for Government benefits
dekko - to have a dekko	to have a look
demister (for car windows)	defogger
to demob	to discharge/be discharged from military service
demountable	stationary (double-width) house trailer (closest equiv., anyway)
derry - to have a derry on	to have an aversion to
dialing code (telephone)	area code
dickhead	(slightly (!) vulgar -- "stupid person"
different to	different from
digestive biscuits	?
digger	Aussie or Kiwi, esp. enlisted man in WWI and WWII
dill	stupid person, idiot
dilly bag	small Aboriginal bag made of woven pandanus ribs
dingbat	Chinese or Italian; army servant; means "featherbrained person" in U.S.
dingo	Australian wild dog; treacherous or cowardly person
to dingo something	to back out of something
to dingo on someone	to betray someone
dink -- to dink	to ride as a passenger on a bike
to double dink	to ride double on a bike
dinkum	real, honest
dinky-di	real, genuine
directory enquiries (telephone)	Information; directory assistance
docket	receipt (for bill paid); ?check (in restaurant)
dodger	bread; good
dodgy	tricky, hard <i>illegal</i> ?
dog (from "dog and bone")	phone (rhyming slang)
dog trailer	? something pulled by a truck
dogger	dingo-hunter
to lie doggo	to lie low
dole	unemployment compensation
on the dole	on unemployment
dole bludger	welfare cheat, person living on unemployment indefinitely
donkey's years	very long time
donkey vote	(voting is compulsory in Australia) - votes done at random
double:	
7 6 <u>double</u> 3 5 nought (pron. of phone number 760050)	pron. 7 6 <u>3</u> <u>3</u> 5 oh
b <u>double</u> e t (spelling aloud of "beet")	pron. b <u>e</u> <u>e</u> t

draughts (game)	checkers
draw	drawing (for prizes)
drawing pin	thumbtack
dressing gown	bathrobe
dripping	fat from roasting meat; (solidified) lard
driving licence	driver's license
drongo	kind of bird; stupid person
the Dry	the dry season of the year
dual carriageway	divided highway
dummy	deaf-and-dumb person (common among Aborigines); pacifier (for babies)
dunny	privy, outdoor toilet
dustbin	rubbish bin, trash barrel, garbage can, dumpster
duster	eraser (blackboard, whiteboard)

earth (electrical)  
earth oven

easy -  
I'm easy

echidna  
eggfruit (North Queensland?)  
eisteddfod (Darwin, N. Queensland)

elastic band

electors

emu

Esky

euro

European (as opposed to Aboriginal)

ground  
covered pit using hot ashes and stones for  
cooking, luau-style

that's OK with me

spiny anteater

eggplant

singing contest

elastic, rubber band (depending on dialect)

voters

very large ostrich-like bird, will race cars

cooler (for picnics)

kind of large kangaroo

white person, Caucasian

fair	fair; blond(e)
fair sick of doing it	really sick of doing it
fair dinkum	true, truely; honest, honestly
fairy floss	cotton candy
fairy lights	string of lights like Christmas-tree lights, used for outside decoration
family allowance	= <u>child endowment</u> , q.v.
to fancy	to be interested in, to like
fanny	female genitals, pussy, cunt - not "ass" (rump) as in U.S.
feed - to be off your feed	not to feel hungry
feeler-gauge (car)	?
fete (pronounced "feet")	fair (at church etc.)
fibro	asbestos sheeting used for outside of cheap houses
fillet steak	undercut of sirloin - none of the Aust. cuts are equivalent to American ones
finance broker	?
fine (weather)	fair
to fine up	to clear up
first floor	second floor
fishmonger	person who sells fish
fitter and turner	person who makes (on lathe) and fits together parts of machinery
fitting room	dressing room (in store)
flagon	large bottle (of wine)
flamin':	
none of your flamin' business	none of your damned business
flannel	washcloth
flat	apartment
flex	electrical cord
flexitime	flextime
flipping -- as in "too flipping easy"	darned
to flog	to sell
fly - "to give it a fly", "to have a fly at"	to try
flying fox	huge fruit-eating bat which smells terrible
flyover	bridge which takes one road over another to avoid intersection
fly wire	screen (on windows)
flow-on	change in pay scale for some jobs because of similar changes in related jobs
foolscap	Aust. version of "legal-sized" paper - about 8 1/4 x 13
football	usually means rugby, rarely U.S. football (see <u>gridiron</u> , <u>Australian Rules</u> )
footpath	sidewalk
to foreshadow (the Minister foreshadowed...)	to give notice of
fortnight	two weeks
Tuesday fortnight	two weeks from Tuesday
to fossick	to search for gold in old mine, to scrounge around for
freehold - to buy land freehold	to buy (rather than lease) land
frig (pron. fridge)	refrigerator

frillie  
frock  
frypan  
full stop  
funnelweb

frilled lizard (see blanket lizard)  
dress  
electric frying pan  
period (at end of sentence)  
a kind of large poisonous spider living in  
ground

galah	rose-breasted cockatoo; stupid person
galvo	galvanized iron
gammon (northern Aust.)	lying, pretending, teasing
gaol (pronounced "jail")	jail
garbo	rubbish collector, garbage man
garden	garden, but also yard
gas	(bottled) gas, never "gasoline" as in U.S. (see <u>petrol</u> )
to gazette	to print in official publication
gear	equipment, clothes
to get down on	to steal
to get shirty	to get mad
to get stuck into something	to start doing something intensively, to get very involved in something
geyser	hot-water heater
gin	very offensive word for Aboriginal woman (though from Aboriginal language -- cf. "squaw")
to give it a go	to make an attempt at it
to give something away	to give something up
given name	first name
globe (electric light) -- twists into socket	bulb -- screws into socket
glove box (of car)	glove compartment
goanna	kind of large lizard, iguana
Gold Coast	coastal resort area in Queensland
Golden Casket	Queensland state lottery
golden syrup	something like light molasses
golf links	golf course
gong	honor (like O.B.E., etc.) awarded by Queen
"Good day!" (pron. good-dIE)	"Hello," "Hi"
"Good-o"	"Good", "Fine"
"Good ON yuh!"	"Good for YOU!", "Thank you"
Government	political party currently in power
G.P.O.	General Post Office (post office in Aust. includes telegraph, which is separate (private) company in U.S.)
grassie	grasshopper
gravel bread	?
grazier	prosperous cattle/sheep rancher
greaseproof paper	?wax paper
greasy hair	oily hair
the Greek's	restaurant/fish-and-chip shop in country town
green ant	kind of ant with transparent green abdomen, makes nests in trees, bites like fire
greengrocer	shop/shopkeeper that sells vegetables
greenie	various kinds of bird
greens	vegetables
(jungle) greens	camouflage uniforms
gridiron	American football (see <u>football</u> , <u>Australian Rules</u> )
to grizzle	to complain

grog  
sly grog  
ground floor (cf. first floor)  
group certificate (for income taxes)  
grouse -- "That's grouse"  
guillotine  
gum tree  
to be up a gum tree  
gymkhana

liquor  
liquor sold illegally  
first floor, ground floor  
W-2 form  
great -- "That's great"  
paper cutter  
eucalyptus tree  
to be in big trouble  
horseriding festival

- H -

H (pronounced "haitch")  
half three  
  
halfcaste  
handbrake (of car)  
Happy Christmas!  
hatch or hatchback (car)  
to have a bash at  
to have a blue  
to have a go  
to have it on with somebody  
headlamps (on car)  
herb -- pronounced "herb"  
  
to hire  
  
hire purchase  
on holiday  
holiday loading  
  
hopper window  
hostel  
  
hostie (from hostess)  
the hot  
hotel  
'ow ya goin' mate, awright?"  
humpy  
huntsman

H (pronounced "aitch")  
half past three, 3:30 (Americans use expressions like 4:15, 2:37 much more than Australians)  
halfbreed  
emergency brake  
Merry Christmas!  
hatchback  
to try  
to have an argument/fight  
to give it a try  
to have sex with somebody  
headlights  
herb -- pronounced "erb" -- only word with this "h" pronunciation difference  
to rent (TV, car, etc.); to hire (person, for casual labor)  
credit  
on vacation  
extra pay received by employee from his employer during his 4(!) weeks' vacation  
?  
kind of boardinghouse for single employees of bank, airline, government, etc.; does not exist in U.S.  
flight attendant, steward/stewardess  
hot weather  
hotel but usually means "bar"  
"How're ya doing?", "How's it going?"  
Aboriginal hut  
kind of large jumping spider

- I -

iceblock	Popsicle
iced (cake)	frosted
icing (on cake)	frosting
icing sugar	confectioner's sugar
identity - a well-known identity	a well-known personality
old identity	person who has lived in a place for a long time and is well known there
in -- to live in X Street	on -- to live on X Street
infant	child under 7 ("infant" in U.S. means "baby")
infant class	?nursery school ?and kindergarten
inst. - your letter of the 5th inst.	your letter of the 5th of this month
interval (at performance)	intermission
invalid pension	disability pension
ironmonger's	hardware store
Islander	(usually) Torres Straits Islander

- J -

jackaroo	sort of apprentice on cattle/sheep station
jacket (of potato)	skin
jam	jam or jelly (in U.S. "jelly" is jam without skins or seeds)
jamies (pron. "jammies"?)	pajamas
jelly	Jello, gelatin
jillaroo	female jackaroo (q.v.)
job lot	miscellaneous lot
joey	baby kangaroo
jumbuck	sheep
jumper	pullover (sweater)

- K -

kerb	curb
kero	kerosene
kibble rye	coarse rye flour
killer	bullock to be slaughtered
kilojoule	metric version of "calorie"
king brown	kind of poisonous snake
Kiwi	New Zealander
knob of butter	?pat of butter
knock:	
to knock it back	to refuse it
to knock someone up	to wake someone up by knocking on door (means "to get someone pregnant" in the U.S.)
knockabout	jack-of-all-trades, handyman
knockabout truck driver	?
Kopha	Crisco nearest equivalent, not really at all the same
kurdaitja man	Aboriginal sorcerer

laboratory -- pron. laBORatr'y	pron. LAB'ratory
ladybird	ladybug
lagoon	lake of permanent water in river
lamb's fry	lamb liver
lamington	square of sponge cake dipped in chocolate and coconut
Land Rights cause	attempt to get back Aboriginal land for tribes
larrikin	young punk
laughing jackass	kookaburra (bird which makes noise like person going mad)
layby	layaway (in buying merchandise)
lead (for dog, etc.)	leash
lead-free (petrol)	unleaded (gasoline)
lecturer, senior lecturer (in university, etc.)	assistant professor, associate professor (roughly) -- middle levels of academic rank. "lecturer" in U.S. is an irregular position, not leading to tenure (permanent position)
lemon squash	lemon-flavored fizzy drink
let -- to let a flat	rent -- to rent an apartment
Liberal -- Australian Liberal Party (ALP)	a conservative political party in Australia
lieutenant -- pronounced "leftenant"	pron. "lootenant"
life assurance	life insurance
lift	elevator
Li-lo	inflatable rubber mattress
lino	linoleum
lippie	lipstick
to lob in	to arrive
loco	locomotive <i>Am: crazy</i>
to lodge (tax return)	to file
lodgement (of tax return)	filing
lolly	candy
lolly water	soft drink/soda pop/tonic (depending on dialect)

long-service leave

special 3-month paid vacation given Aust. public service employees (and others?) after 10 years on the job. Does not exist in the U.S. *OR 6 months at half-pay*

loo

bathroom

lorry or truck

truck

lotto

game like bingo

lounge

living room

lounge suit

business suit

lounge suite

living room set

love:

female equiv. of mate as term of address

"Can I help you, love?"

"Can I help you, honey/dear?"

lubra

Aboriginal woman (obsolete term)

to lumber

?to catch (someone doing something) ?to

lurk

arrest

tax lurk (like business lunches)

racket, scam

?tax racket

maize meal	corn meal
Marie (name) -- pronounced MArie	Marie -- pronounced MaRIE
Marmite	brand of yeast extract; see <u>Vegemite</u>
marrow (or strictly Brit.?)	squash
mate	friend -- esp. male
matey	friendly
mateship	comradeship
maths	math
to matriculate	to be admitted to a university
matron	senior nurse, matron
metalled road	gravel road
metho	person who drinks methylated spirits
methylated spirits	ethyl alcohol denatured with wood alcohol
midday	noon
middy	small beer glass (10 oz.)
migrant	immigrant
milk bar	place serving non-alcoholic drinks, sandwiches, etc. -- nearest equiv. "coffee shop", but Aust. version is often counter open to street
	milkman
milko	hamburg, ground beef
mince, mincemeat	Will o' the wisp in outback
minmin light	
miss:	
to miss out something	to leave out something
mob (of people)	group
mobs of something	lots of something
"you mob"	"you guys"
mongrel	all-purpose epithet like U.S. "S.O.B."
mopoke	kind of owl, making noise like its name, MO-poke
mossie (pron. mozzie)	mosquito
motor (--- trade, --- industry)	automotive, automobile
motorbike	motorcycle
mouth organ	harmonica
muck -- to muck around	to mess around
muddie	mud crab
mufti	civvies, civilian clothes
mulga	type of scrub vegetation
Mum, Mummy	Mom, Mommy
mushie	mushroom
muso	musician
muster; to muster	roundup; to round up (cattle/sheep)
mutton	lamb (even when from adult sheep)

napkin	sanitary napkin (only), Kotex ; in U.S. means <u>serviette</u> , q.v.
nappy (short for napkin)	diaper
nasho (from National Service)	draft
native cat	fierce spotted carnivorous marsupial
to natter	to chat
nature strip	strip of grass between sidewalk and street; exists in U.S. but no word for it
naughts and crosses (game)	tic-tac-toe
Negro	black, Black, Afro-American; "Negro" not now used in the U.S. (since about 1966), and considered offensive by many
nervy	nervous
the Never-never	the Outback
never-never	credit buying
New Australian	immigrant
new chum	rookie, British immigrant
newsagent	newsstand, newsstand owner
no-hoper	worthless person
note, banknote (paper money)	bill
nought	zero (0) (often pronounced "oh" in American telephone numbers, etc.)
"no worries"	"never mind, it's OK"
nuggety	thick-set
nullanulla	Aboriginal wooden club
nurse	practical nurse (no exact equiv. - see "sister")

- O -

oath or "my oath"	I swear, I say
ocker	stereotype of blue-collar Australian man; "person who is aggressively Australian in speech and behaviour" ( <u>Australian Pocket Oxford Dictionary</u> )
off-colour	sick
to offload	to unload
off-sider	helper
O.H.M.S.	On Her Majesty's Service - letters on official envelopes, which need no stamps within Australia
on:	
"It's not on", "That's not on"	"No way", "It's not right/likely/feasible"
to be on at someone	to keep at someone
the Outback	the remote interior of Australia
outstation	camp removed from main settlement
overseas	abroad
to overtake	to pass (e.g., car moving in same direction) -- "pass" does not mean this in Aust.
Oz	Australia - cf. Aussie (pronounced Ozzie)

packet (e.g. of spaghetti)	package
Paddlepop	Popsicle
Paddo	Paddington (Sydney suburb)
paddock	fenced-in field
paddy	Irishman; rage (in U.S., is one of the derogatory Black words for a white person)
panda car	black-and-white, police car
panel beating (of cars)	body work
panel van	van with windows and seats
pantehnicon	moving van
pants	panties, underpants
--- Parade, --- Crescent	--- Lane, etc. (words for street)
paraffin	kerosene
liquid paraffin	mineral oil
paramatta	kind of fabric
party wall	common wall between two houses or rooms
pastel -- pronounced PASTel	pronounced paSTEL
pastie (pron. "past-ie", not "paste-ie")	kind of meat pie
pat - on one's pat (from "Pat Malone")	alone, on your own (rhyming slang)
patience	solitaire (card game)
Pavlova or pav	"cake made of meringue with marshmallow center topped with whipped cream and strawberries/passion fruit" -- <u>Australian Pocket Oxford Dictionary</u>
papaw	papaya (fruit of tree <u>Carica papaya</u> ). (Papaw/pawpaw in U.S. means fruit of temperate custard apple ( <u>Asimina triloba</u> ) -- not equiv. to tropical custard apple ( <u>Annona reticulata</u> ), which grows in both U.S. and Aust.)
P.A.Y.E. (Pay As You Earn)	?tax withholding on pay
peanut paste	peanut butter
peckish	a little hungry
penalty rates	special pay for overtime, working on Sundays and holidays, etc.
pensioner	retiree, senior citizen
pergola	(often trellis-like) covering for a porch, for example
perks (short for perquisites)	fringe benefits
permanency (in public service job)	tenure
perve	pervert
petrol	gas(oline)
petrol station	gas station, filling station
petroleum jelly	Vaseline
pictures, film	movie
pikelet	various sorts of tea cake
pip:	
pip	seed/pit (of fruit)
"deposit coin when you hear the <u>pips</u> "	high-pitched beeps
piss	beer
pissed	drunk (means "angry" in the U.S.)
to plait	to braid
plate - "Ladies please bring a plate"	dish (of food!) for social occasion
plates (from "plates of meat")	feet (rhyming slang)

plonk  
pocket -- to be out of pocket

to point the bone (Aboriginal)

pointer

pokie

pollie

Pom, Pommie

pony

poof, poofter

Pools

porcupine

porridge

posh

possie, pozzy

to post, by post

    postcode

    post-free

    postie

post-graduate student

power point

pram (from "perambulator")

prang

prawn

    to come the raw prawn

prawnie

prego

Presbo, Pressie

pressie

primary industry

professor (in university)

Pty. (after company name)

pub

public service

pullover

pumpkin

publican

push bike

puss, pussy

cheap wine

to have spent one's own money on something official/job-related

to use witchcraft to kill someone

person who takes advantage

poker machine

politician

offensive word for Englishman

very small beer glass (7 oz.)

offensive word for homosexual

gambling based on football results

echidna, q.v. (in the U.S. means different animal with long sharp quills)

oatmeal

fancy

position, job

to mail, by mail

ZIP code

postage paid

mailman, letter carrier

graduate student

electrical outlet

baby carriage

crash (e.g., car accident)

shrimp

    to feign ignorance or innocence

fisherman

pregnant

Presbyterian

present , *gift*

agriculture, cattle, mining

head of academic department (for life); in the U.S., assistant professor, associate professor, (full) professor are the rough

equivalents of Australian lecturer, senior lecturer, reader, q.v. Also see tutor.

Co.

bar

civil service

sweater (word not used in Aust.), pullover

most kinds of squash (not necessarily, orange outside or even inside); "pumpkin "

in U.S. means round squash, orange outside and inside, used for making lighted skulls

at Halloween as well as for pies

owner/manager of a pub, q.v

bicycle

kitty (pussy means "female genitals" in the U.S.)

to query -  
to query an arrangement  
quest  
queue  
to queue up  
"Quickly!"  
to quieten

to question -  
to question an arrangement  
sort of contest to raise money for charity  
line (of people waiting)  
to line up  
"Hurry up!" (said to child)  
to become quiet, quiet (someone) down

railway  
rasher (of bacon)  
ratbag  
ratepayer  
reader (in university)  
  
rebate  
to reckon  
"I reckon he's not coming"  
"I reckon"  
"D'you reckon?"  
redback  
  
reel of cotton  
rego (pronounced rejo)  
removals  
repat, Repatriation  
Repatriation disability pension  
returned soldier  
reverse-charge call (on phone)  
to revise  
right:  
"You right?"  
"She'll be right"  
to ring off (in telephoning)  
to ring up  
ringer  
ringer clothes  
rise (in wages)  
road haulier  
road train  
  
rockmelon  
roneo machine  
roo  
roo bar  
rosella  
round -- to look round  
roundabout  
rubber  
rude word  
rug  
to run somebody in

railroad  
strip  
worthless person, troublemaker, weirdo  
(real estate) taxpayer  
(full) professor (professor is highest level  
of academic appointment in U.S.; does not  
imply being head of dept. in U.S.)  
tax deduction  
to think  
"I don't think he's coming"  
"I guess so", "I think so"  
"Do you think so?", "Isn't that right?"  
poisonous spider, like the American black  
widow  
spool of thread  
registration  
moves (of residence)  
rehabilitation of veterans  
disabled veteran's pension  
veteran  
collect call  
to review, to revise  
  
"Are you ready?" "Are you OK?"  
"It'll be OK."  
to hang up  
to call, to telephone  
cowboy, sheep shearer  
cowboy outfits, Western-style outfits  
raise (in pay)  
?owner of trucking company  
truck with several trailers, allowed on  
roads in the outback  
cantaloupe  
?mimeograph machine  
kangaroo  
kangaroo grill on front of vehicle  
kind of parrot  
around -- to look around  
rotary, traffic circle (depending on dialect)  
eraser (on pencil) -- U.S. meaning "condom"  
swear word  
blanket  
to arrest somebody

to sack (employee)	to fire ("sack" in the U.S. means a bag)
safe custody packet	safe deposit box
Sallie, Salvo	member of Salvation Army
Sally Lunn	kind of tea cake
saltarm or saltpan	mud flat off river that is covered by salt water when the tide is in
salty	salt-water crocodile (man-eater)
sarvo	this afternoon
saveloy	kind of spicy sausage
savoury	not sweet (food)
schedule -- pronounced SHED-yule	schedule -- pronounced SKED-yule
school holidays (Dec - Jan)	school summer vacation (late June- early Sept.)
schoolie	schoolteacher
scone	biscuit; (slang) head
schooner	large beer glass (15 oz.)
sea wasp	deadly box jellyfish
secateurs	garden clippers
to second someone to (pron. seCOND)	to transfer someone temporarily to (another department)
to seCRET	to seCRETE, hide something away
self-raising flour (usual kind in Aust.)	self-rising flour
Sellotape	Scotch tape
septic (from "septic tank")	American (rhyming slang for Yank)
serviette	(table) napkin -- see <u>napkin</u> , <u>nappy</u> )
set - to have a set on	to have a grudge against
settee	sofa, couch
shadow cabinet (in politics)	sort of cabinet-in-exile set up by party out of power, always ready to take over if party comes to power
shanghai	slingshot
sheila	girl
to shift (something)	to move (something)
to shoot through	to run off/away, desert, leave suddenly
shop	store
to shop someone	to inform on someone
shopsteal -- to shopsteal	to shoplift
shopstealer	shoplifter
shortfall bay	? (something to do with parking cars)
shout - "my shout"	my turn to buy drinks for everybody
Yankee shout	?everyone pays for himself?
show	fair (like county fair)
sickie - to take a sickie	to take a sick day from work (when not sick)
silverside	cut of beef - upper side of round; ?corned beef
silvertail	member of middle/upper class - opposite of <u>coppertail</u> , q.v.
singlet	undershirt
sister (nothing to do with nuns)	senior nurse, R.N. (no exact equivalent)
skin	subsection of Aboriginal tribe
skirt	girl
slack	careless, remiss [in <u>The Bulletin</u> Oct 8 '85]

sleepers (railway)	ties (railroad)
to slim	to diet
slimming (food)	non-fattening
to sling off at	to make fun of
slippery dip	slippery slide
smash	automobile accident, car crash
smoko	coffee break, regular break from work for a rest and/or a smoke
snagger	sausage
soak	place in desert which collects water after rain
solder, to solder (pron. with the "l")	solder, to solder (pron. "sodder")
solicitor	lawyer who does not represent clients in court -- see <u>barrister</u> . In U.S. "solicitor" means "salesman."
spanner	wrench
spearthrower or woomera	Aboriginal implement for making spears go further
spec -- (to do something) on spec	to do something experimentally, taking a chance
not enough spec for the job	?
special person call (telephone)	person-to-person call
spinifex	kind of tall grass
spirit duplicator	Ditto machine
spirit(s)	(alcoholic) liquor
to spit	to rain lightly, to mist
spiv	"man who lives by his wits w/o working"
sports oval, oval	playing field
spots (on face)	pimples, zits
spring onion	green onion, scallion
squatter	<u>grazier</u> (q.v.) ("squatter" in U.S. means person living illegally on someone else's land/in someone else's house/apartment)
staff (in university, college)	faculty; in the U.S., "staff" means the secretaries, janitors, gardeners, etc.
to stand down	to lay off (workers) temporarily, to resign
to stand for election	to run for election
station	ranch
STD (Subscriber Trunk Dialing)	DDD (Direct Distance Dialing)
stickybeak, to stickybeak	busybody, nosy person, to mind someone else's business
sticky tape	Scotch tape (or any other brand of cellophane tape)
stockists	stores where you can buy things advertised in magazines
stockman	cowboy
stretcher	(folding camp) cot
Strine	<u>broad Australian</u> , q.v.
stubbies	short shorts; small cans of beer
Darwin stubbies	very large cans of beer
sugar bag	wild honey (made by native bees that don't sting, look like flies)
sultana	white raisin, kind of green grape
summer lightning	heat lightning
sump [of car]	oil pan
to sunbake	to sunbathe
sundowner	tramp; evening drink
superannuation scheme	retirement plan ("scheme" in the U.S. means an evil plan, a plot)
supper	midnight snack (or any snack served after 9 PM -- not a full meal. See <u>tea</u> .)

Surface Air Lifted

(mail) sent (overseas) by air only over the ocean part of the journey; does not exist in U.S.

doctor's surgery

doctor's office ("surgery" means only "operation" in the U.S.)

surname

last name

swag

belongings rolled up in blanket and carried while camping in bush

swede

rutabaga

sweet

dessert

swimmers

bathing suit/trunks

Sydneysider

person who lives in Sydney

"ta!"	"thanks!"
T.A.B.	Totalizator Agency Board -- state administrator of off-track betting
tabby cat	tiger cat (striped cat)
to table/lay on the table (a bill in legislature)	to put forth for discussion (U.S. meaning is "to lay it aside for later, possibly permanently")
tacky	shabby; in U.S. means "in poor taste"
taipan	kind of very poisonous snake
take-away food	food to go
"chips with tomato sauce to take away"	"fries with catsup to go"
tap	faucet (inside building), spigot, silcock (outside)
tapestry	needlepoint
Tassie (pron. Tazzie)	Tasmania (island state of Australia)
tax stamp	stamp on back of check, etc. to show that a tax has been paid on it; does not exist in U.S.
Australian Taxation Office	equiv. of Internal Revenue Service
tea	tea, but also dinner (evening meal)
high tea	dinner
tea lady	woman who comes around with cart of tea etc. at morning and afternoon tea breaks in offices
tea towel	dishtowel
to tear something down on someone	?to take something away from someone??
telephonist	telephone operator, switchboard operator
telly	TV
tenement (referring to mining company)	?lease ("tenement" in the U.S. means slum apartment house)
terrace house	row house (common in eastern U.S. cities)
Territorian	person living in the Northern Territory
tertiary education	higher (post-secondary) education
terylene	kind of synthetic fabric
thanks	thanks, but also "please"
"That'll be \$4 thanks"	"That'll be \$4 please"
that's the lot	that's all
thingo	what's-his-name
thousand million	billion
to tick over (engine)	to idle
timetable	schedule; "timetable" in U.S. is e.g. railroad schedule
tick - to tick	checkmark - to check (box on questionnaire)
ticket - that's the ticket	that's just what was wanted
tidy	clean -- means "neat" in the U.S.
tights	panty hose; in U.S. "tights" are thicker ones worn by dancers
tin (e.g., of soup)	can
cake tin	cake pan
tinned	canned
tinny	can of beer
tip	dump, landfill
togs, swimming togs	bathing suit/trunks

toilet (often separate room from bathtub and washbowl)	(in house) bathroom, (in airplane) lavatory; in U.S. "toilet" is indelicate <i>restroom</i>
tomato puree	tomato sauce
tomato sauce	catsup/ketchup
tonne (rhymes with "on")	metric ton (1000 kilograms)
toot (rhymes with "put")	bathroom
Top End	northern part of Northern Territory
Top Ender	person living there
torch	flashlight
tortoiseshell cat	tortoiseshell cat, money cat (always-female 3-colored cat)
tosspot	drinker ?drunk
totalizator	pari mutuel -- see <u>T.A.B.</u>
tracker	Aboriginal man who tracks criminals for the police
Tracy	cyclone (q.v.) which wiped out Darwin at Christmas 1974
trafficator	blinker, turn signal (on car)
tram	trolley, trolley car
trannie	transistor radio
transparency (in photography)	slide
transport (as in "means of ...")	transportation
treacle	molasses
trifecta	?triple prize ?only in horse racing?
trolley	grocery cart / shopping cart / trolley / shopping basket (depending on dialect)
troppo - gone troppo	gone mad with the heat of the tropics
trouble (from "trouble and strife")	wife (rhyming slang)
trousers	pants
trouser-suit	pantsuit
truckie	truck driver
"True?"	"Really?"
trunk, trunk call (telephone)	long-distance call
tucker	food
turnup	hem (on clothes); surprise result
tutor (in university, etc)	instructor (lowest level of academic rank); in U.S. "tutor" means someone who gives private lessons
to twig	to notice, to understand, to catch on to
two-up	Australian game of chance
tyre (automobile)	tire

- U -

at uni	in college
unit (in college/university)	course
unit (of residence)	condo (owned apartment)
university	university or college (in U.S., difference is whether or not it awards doctoral degrees)
ute, utility	pickup, pickup truck

- V -

vacation	holiday trip away from home (see holiday); "vacation" in U.S. means annual <u>2-week</u> (sometimes 3-week if one has worked for the company long enough) holiday
valuer	assessor
vanilla pod	vanilla bean
Vegemite	yeast extract, eaten spread on bread
veggie	vegetable
venue	location where something takes place; in U.S. only legal term
verandah	porch
verge	shoulder (of road)
to vet	to check out, examine

to wag (school)  
wage rise  
wages  
wagon  
walkabout -- to go walkabout

wallaby  
walk-in wardrobe/cupboard  
to do the washing up  
wattle

weather -- to be under the weather

weatherboard  
wedge - thin edge of the wedge

week:  
Monday week, Tuesday week

weekender  
weir  
westies  
wet  
the Wet  
wharfie  
wheatmeal, wholemeal  
to whinge  
white ant  
white coffee  
willywilly  
windcheater  
windscreen  
wind shield

wireless or radio  
wire wool  
witchetty grub  
wog

Woolies

woomera

to work it out  
to work over  
wowser  
wurlie

to play hooky, skip (school)  
pay raise  
pay  
railroad (esp. freight) car  
to go into a period of wandering; also to be spaced out  
small species of kangaroo  
closet  
to do the dishes  
kind of acacia tree/bush with yellow flowers - Aust. national emblem  
to be drunk (American meaning is "to be sick")  
clapboard (house)  
something which opens up the way for much more to happen

a week from Monday, a week from Tuesday  
vacation house  
dam on a stream  
?ockers (q.v.)  
angry; weak  
the rainy season, during the monsoon  
stevedore  
whole wheat flour  
to complain  
termite  
coffee with cream  
whirlwind  
windproof jacket  
windshield  
shield from the wind, for a microphone, for example  
radio  
steel wool  
grub eaten by Aborigines, tastes like eggs  
germ, illness, bug, flu; offensive term for (esp. dark-skinned) foreigner  
Woolworth's - grocery/department store, not dime store as in U.S.  
spear-thrower (device to make a spear go farther)  
to figure it out  
to work late  
teetotaler  
Aboriginal hut

- Y -

yabber, to yabber  
yabby  
yacker/yakka - as in "hard yacker"  
Yank  
    Yank tank  
yard  
  
yarraman  
year - as in "third year" (school)  
yellafella  
  
yobbo  
  
you lot, you mob, youse

talk, chatter, to talk  
crayfish  
work  
American  
    big American car  
fenced-in area on cattle station (q.v.); U.S.  
meaning is "lawn area around house"  
horse  
grade - "third grade"  
part-Aboriginal (Kriol); there are also  
"blackfella" and "whitefella"  
hooligan, punk?, tough [sort of Pig Latin  
for "boy"]  
you guys

- Z -

Z (letter) - pronounced "zed"  
zebra crossing (pronounced "zebbra")  
zone rebate

Z - pronounced "zee"  
pedestrian crossing, marked by stripes  
special tax deduction for living in remote  
area