

Talk a Lot

Australia

General Questions

1. Are there any words or phrases that you don't know? Find them in a dictionary.
2. Take some cards. Describe the word or phrase on a card without saying it.
3. How many words and phrases have... a) 1 syllable, b) 2 syllables, c) 3 syllables, d) 4 syllables, e) 5 syllables, f) 6 or more syllables?
4. Put words and phrases with more than one syllable into groups according to where the strong stress falls.
5. Put the words and phrases into alphabetical order.
6. Find and put into groups... a) compound nouns, b) words with suffixes.
7. Find words that... a) begin with a vowel sound, b) end with a vowel sound, c) begin with a consonant sound, d) end with a consonant sound. Put them into sound groups.
8. Find words which contain silent letters (letters which are not pronounced).
9. How many words and phrases can you remember when they are all turned over?
10. Put words and phrases that contain the same sounds into groups, using the IPA.

Lesson Questions

1. Which word sounds like... a) rainstorm, b) Derby, c) trout, d) dining, e) toast, f) kidney, g) cancellation, h) late night park, i) Lisbon, j) old brush, k) bomb?
2. Talk about each of the... a) famous people, b) places, c) animals, d) historical terms.
3. This is a region of South Australia that is famous for producing wine.
4. i) Find a word which has a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the... a) 1st syllable, b) 2nd syllable, c) 3rd syllable, etc. ii) Do any words and phrases *not* have a schwa?
5. a) Describe one of the animals. b) Tell me an unusual fact about it. c) Which of the four animals cannot move backwards?
6. This phrase describes a place where people from different ethnic backgrounds share each other's cultures and traditions.
7. Which word means... a) ball game, b) natural plateau, c) where land meets sea, d) foreigners settle, e) an object that returns, f) removal, g) ocean predator?
8. This word is a common nickname in Australia for an English person.
9. Find a word that means precious resources which are found in the ground.
10. "The practice of shipping convicts from Britain to Australia, from 1787 onwards, was known as _____."

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Discussion Words Question Sheet

Answers

General Questions

1. Answers will vary.

2. Answers will vary.

3. a) 3 words have 1 syllable: coast, pom, drought. b) 12 words and phrases have 2 syllables: gold rush, minerals, Brisbane, Queensland, footy, mining, barbie, Outback, emu, Shane Warne, convict, Sydney. c) 13 words and phrases have 3 syllables: Cate Blanchett, kangaroo, walkabout, great white shark, climate change, forest fire, Uluru, Canberra, soap opera, melting pot, boomerang, Captain Cook, rainforest. d) 7 words and phrases have 4 syllables: immigration, koala bear, Kylie Minogue, Gallipoli, transportation, didgeridoo, Great Barrier Reef. e) 4 phrases have 5 syllables: duck-billed platypus, Barossa Valley, Sydney Opera House, Pacific Ocean. f) 1 phrase has 8 syllables: Aboriginal Australians.

4. 2 syllables: these words and phrases have the strong stress on the first syllable: **gold** rush, **minerals**, **Brisbane**, **Queensland**, **footy**, **mining**, **barbie**, **Outback**, **emu**, **convict**, **Sydney**; this phrase has the strong stress on the second syllable: Shane **Warne**. 3 syllables: these words and phrases have the strong stress on the first syllable: **walkabout**, **climate change**, **Canberra**, **soap opera**, **melting pot**, **boomerang**, **rainforest**; this phrase has the strong stress on the middle syllable: Cate **Blanchett**; these words and phrases have the strong stress on the third syllable: kangaroo, great white **shark**, forest **fire**, Uluru, Captain **Cook**. 4 syllables: these words and phrases have the strong stress on the second syllable: koala bear, Gallipoli; these words have the strong stress on the third syllable: immigration, transportation; these words and phrases have the strong stress on the fourth syllable: Kylie **Minogue**, Great Barrier **Reef**, didgeridoo. 5 syllables: these phrases have the strong stress on the third syllable: duck-billed **platypus**, Sydney Opera House; these phrases have the strong stress on the fourth syllable: Barossa **Valley**, Pacific **Ocean**. 8 syllables: this phrase has the strong stress on the seventh syllable: Aboriginal **Australians**.

5. Aboriginal Australians, barbie, Barossa Valley, boomerang, Brisbane, Canberra, Captain Cook, Cate Blanchett, climate change, coast, convict, didgeridoo, drought, duck-billed platypus, emu, footy, forest fire, Gallipoli, gold rush, Great Barrier Reef, great white shark, immigration, kangaroo, koala bear, Kylie Minogue, melting pot, minerals, mining, Outback, Pacific Ocean, pom, Queensland, rainforest, Shane Warne, soap opera, Sydney, Sydney Opera House, transportation, Uluru, walkabout.

6. a) The following words are compound nouns: rainforest (rain + forest), Queensland (Queens + land), Outback (Out + back), walkabout (walk + about). b) The following words and phrases contain suffixes: koala bear, soap opera, Barossa Valley; melting pot, mining; Aboriginal Australians, minerals; immigration, transportation; Pacific Ocean; footy; barbie; climate change; forest fire; Great Barrier Reef; Sydney.

7. a) These words and phrases all begin with a vowel sound (grouped by IPA sound): /ɪ/ immigration; /aʊ/ **Outback**; /i:/ **emu**; /u:/ **Uluru**; /æ/ **Aboriginal Australians**.

b) These words and phrases all end with a vowel sound (grouped by IPA sound): /i/ **footy**, **barbie**, **Sydney**, Barossa **Valley**, Gallipoli; /u:/ **Uluru**, **emu**, kangaroo, didgeridoo; /ə/ **Canberra**, soap opera; /aɪə/ forest **fire**; /eə/ koala **bear**.

c) These words and phrases all begin with a consonant sound (grouped by IPA sound): /k/ kangaroo, Queensland, climate change, koala bear, coast, Canberra, Kylie Minogue, convict, Captain Cook, Cate Blanchett; /g/ gold rush, great white shark, Gallipoli, Great Barrier Reef; /b/ Brisbane, barbie, Barossa Valley, boomerang; /m/ minerals, mining, melting pot; /s/ Sydney, soap opera, Sydney Opera House; /d/ didgeridoo, duck-billed platypus, drought; /p/ Pacific Ocean, pom; /f/ footy, forest fire; /ʃ/ Shane Warne; /t/ transportation; /r/ rainforest; /w/ walkabout.

d) These words and phrases all end with a consonant sound (grouped by IPA sound): /t/ rainforest, walkabout, coast, melting pot, drought, convict, Cate Blanchett; /n/ Pacific Ocean, Brisbane, Shane Warne, transportation, immigration; /k/ Captain Cook, Outback, great white shark; /z/ Aboriginal Australians, minerals; /ŋ/ mining, boomerang; /s/ Sydney Opera House, duck-billed platypus; /d/ Queensland; /dʒ/ climate change; /g/ Kylie Minogue; /f/ Great Barrier Reef; /m/ pom; /ʃ/ gold rush.

8. Many English words contain one or more **silent letters** – letters which are part of the spelling of a word, but which are not pronounced. The aim of this activity is to demonstrate how so often the spelling of a word in English is different from how it sounds when spoken. Below are some good examples of words in this group of discussion

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Discussion Words Question Sheet

words that have silent letters. The silent letters are shown in brackets. No doubt your students will be able to identify some more.

co [a]st, drou [gh]t, wa [l]kabout, Brisban [e], Q [u]eensland, Outba [c]k, koala bea [r], im [m]igration

9. Answers will vary.

10. There are many possible answers to this question; for example, “drought”, “Sydney Opera House”, “Outback”, and “walkabout” all contain the vowel sound /aʊ/. Use the phonetic chart on p.18.6 of the **Talk a Lot Elementary Handbook** (available free from www.englishbanana.com/talkalot) and the phonetic spellings of the vocabulary words on the *Discussion Words (with the IPA)* handout to help your students put the words into sound groups.

Lesson Questions

1. a) Shane Warne. b) barbie. c) drought. d) mining. e) coast. f) Sydney. g) transportation. h) great white shark. i) Brisbane. j) gold rush. k) pom.

2. a) The **famous people** are: Kylie Minogue, Cate Blanchett, Shane Warne, Captain Cook. b) The **places** are: Great Barrier Reef, Sydney, Pacific Ocean, Brisbane, Queensland, Outback, coast, Canberra, Uluru, Barossa Valley, Gallipoli, Sydney Opera House, rainforest. c) The **animals** are: duck-billed platypus, great white shark, emu, koala bear, kangaroo. d) The **historical terms** are: convict, transportation, immigration, gold rush, Captain Cook. (Note: see the *Discussion Words Glossary* for a brief summary of each one, or find out more online or at your local library.)

3. Barossa Valley.

4. i) a) Words and phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 1st syllable: Gallipoli, Barossa Valley, Pacific Ocean. b) Words and phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 2nd syllable: boomerang, walkabout, climate change, kangaroo, didgeridoo, forest fire, Queensland, minerals, Canberra, Brisbane, Aboriginal Australians, Uluru. c) Words and phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 3rd syllable: koala bear, Canberra, soap opera, Gallipoli. d) Words and phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 4th syllable: Sydney Opera House, transportation, immigration. e) Phrases which have a weak stress schwa sound /ə/ on the 5th syllable: Aboriginal Australians, Pacific Ocean. ii) 20 words and phrases don't have a weak stress schwa sound: Cate Blanchett, Sydney, footy, great white shark, mining, barbie, Outback, emu, Shane Warne, coast, Kylie Minogue, drought, duck-billed platypus, melting pot, convict, Captain Cook, pom, gold rush, rainforest, Great Barrier Reef.

5. a) Answers will vary. b) Answers will vary. Sample answer: the **duck-billed platypus** can live on land and underwater; the blockbuster film “Jaws” was about a **great white shark**; the **emu** is the second-largest bird in the world, after the ostrich; the **koala bear** is not actually a bear, but rather a marsupial, which is a kind of mammal; a baby **kangaroo** is known as a “joey”, and is kept in a protective pouch on the front of the mother's body. c) The great white shark, emu, and kangaroo cannot move backwards.

Note: the duck-billed platypus, emu, koala bear, and kangaroo are all unique to Australia, and don't occur naturally in any other country, while the great white shark can be found in temperate waters around the world.

6. melting pot.

7. a) footy (football). b) Uluru. c) coast. d) immigration. e) boomerang. f) mining. g) great white shark.

8. pom.

9. minerals.

10. transportation.

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