

# Talk a Lot

## Australia

### Multi-Purpose Text

#### The Flyer (Original Text)

Line

1 One day in August Dennis was walking around the city centre aimlessly with his  
2 girlfriend Linda. "Two weeks' break, but no money to *do* anything!" he complained.  
3 Just then Linda picked up a brightly-coloured flyer. "Guaranteed trip to Australia!" she  
4 read carefully, "Calls cost a pound..." Dennis sprang into action. "Come on, Linda!  
5 Get your phone out and let's get dialling!" After listening to a recorded message about  
6 the delights of Australia for ten minutes, both of their calls came to an end. They were  
7 disappointed to be told that they hadn't won the trip "on this occasion", but that they  
8 should "call again" – and often – to have another chance of winning. Neither of them  
9 had a lot of credit left on their mobiles, so Dennis suggested: "Let's get me dad's  
10 phone. It'll be amazing to go Down Under!" They found Rob's phone and made a  
11 couple more calls, but each time they were unlucky. Then they tried from Dennis's  
12 home phone, and after that from Linda's grandma's mobile, but no joy. "I'm getting  
13 bored listening to all that going on about Australia!" commented Linda. Dennis  
14 agreed, but they both fancied a luxury holiday in the sun, so they kept on calling,  
15 asking everyone they knew whether they could use their phones: "Just for a minute –  
16 and we'll pay you back!" By the end of the day they had heard the same message  
17 twenty-seven times. It was then that Linda read the small print on the back of the  
18 flyer. "It says here calls cost a quid..." "Right," agreed Dennis. "But it's a pound a  
19 minute, Dennis!" Dennis's face turned purple. Their holiday of a lifetime would have to  
20 wait. The next day Dennis went back to the garage to put in some overtime.  
(296 words)



#### The Flyer (Text with 20 Differences)

One day in August Dennis was **1. talking (walking)** around the city centre aimlessly with his girlfriend Linda. "Two weeks' break, but no money to *do* anything!" he **2. trained (complained)**. Just then Linda picked up a brightly-coloured flyer. "Guaranteed trip to Australia!" she read **3. caringly (carefully)**, "Calls cost a pound..." Dennis sprang into action. "Come on, Linda! Get your phone out and let's get dialling!" After **4. listing (listening)** to a recorded message about the delights **5. off (of)** Australia for ten minutes, both of their calls came to an end. They were disappointed to be **6. bold (told)** that they hadn't won the trip "on this occasion", but that they should "call again" – and often – to have another chance of **7. winging (winning)**. Neither of them had a lot of credit left on their mobiles, so Dennis suggested: "Let's get me dad's phone. It'll be **8. crazy (amazing)** to go Down Under!" They found Rob's **9. foam (phone)** and made a couple more calls, but each time they were unlucky. Then they tried **10. fun (from)** Dennis's home phone, and after that from Linda's grandma's mobile, but no joy. "I'm getting **11. bought (bored)** listening to all that going on about Australia!" commented **12. limber (Linda)**. Dennis agreed, but they both fancied a luxury **13. corridor (holiday)** in the sun, so they kept **14. an (on)** calling, asking everyone they knew whether they could use their phones: "Just for a minute – and we'll pay you back!" By the **15. bend (end)** of the day they had heard the **16. sane (same)** message twenty-seven times. It was then that Linda read the **17. ball (small)** print on the back of the flyer. "It says here calls **18. lost (cost)** a quid..." "Right," agreed Dennis. "But it's a pound a minute, Dennis!" Dennis's face turned purple. **19. Dare (Their)** holiday of a lifetime would **20. had (have)** to wait. The next day Dennis went back to the garage to put in some overtime.

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### Multi-Purpose Text

#### The Flyer (Gap-Fill – Verbs)

One day in August Dennis was 1. \_\_\_\_\_ around the city centre aimlessly with his girlfriend Linda. "Two weeks' break, but no money to *do* anything!" he 2. \_\_\_\_\_. Just then Linda 3. \_\_\_\_\_ a brightly-coloured flyer. "Guaranteed trip to Australia!" she read carefully, "Calls cost a pound..." Dennis sprang into action. "Come on, Linda! 4. \_\_\_\_\_ your phone out and let's get dialling!" After listening to a recorded message about the delights of Australia for ten minutes, both of their calls 5. \_\_\_\_\_ to an end. They were disappointed to be 6. \_\_\_\_\_ that they hadn't won the trip "on this occasion", but that they should "call again" – and often – to have another chance of winning. Neither of them 7. \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of credit left on their mobiles, so Dennis 8. \_\_\_\_\_: "Let's get me dad's phone. It'll be amazing to go Down Under!" They 9. \_\_\_\_\_ Rob's phone and made a couple more calls, but each time they were unlucky. Then they tried from Dennis's home phone, and after that from Linda's grandma's mobile, but no joy. "I'm 10. \_\_\_\_\_ bored listening to all that going on about Australia!" commented Linda. Dennis agreed, but they both 11. \_\_\_\_\_ a luxury holiday in the sun, so they kept on calling, asking everyone they knew whether they could use their phones: "Just for a minute – and we'll 12. \_\_\_\_\_ you back!" By the end of the day they had heard the same message twenty-seven times. It was then that Linda 13. \_\_\_\_\_ the small print on the back of the flyer. "It says here calls cost a quid..." "Right," agreed Dennis. "But it's a pound a minute, Dennis!" Dennis's face 14. \_\_\_\_\_ purple. Their holiday of a lifetime would have to wait. The next day Dennis went back to the garage to 15. \_\_\_\_\_ some overtime.



#### The Flyer (Multiple Choice – Use of English)

One day in August Dennis 1. **a) will, b) was, c) were** walking around the city centre aimlessly with his girlfriend Linda. "Two weeks' break, but no money to *do* anything!" he 2. **a) says, b) moaning, c) complained**. Just then Linda picked 3. **a) up, b) out, c) down** a brightly-coloured flyer. "Guaranteed trip to Australia!" she read carefully, "Calls cost a pound..." Dennis sprang 4. **a) in, b) into, c) onto** action. "Come on, Linda! Get your phone out and let's get dialling!" 5. **a) When, b) After, c) While** listening to a recorded message about the delights of Australia for ten minutes, both of their calls came to an end. They were 6. **a) disappointed, b) thrilled, c) happy** to be told that they hadn't won the trip "on this occasion", but that they should "call again" – and often – to have another chance of winning. Neither of them had a 7. **a) load, b) little, c) lot** of credit left on their mobiles, so Dennis suggested: "Let's get me dad's phone. It'll be amazing to go Down Under!" 8. **a) They, b) We, c) Her** found Rob's phone and made a couple more calls, but each time they were unlucky. Then they tried from Dennis's home phone, and after that from Linda's grandma's mobile, 9. **a) and, b) so, c) but** no joy. "I'm getting bored listening to all that going on about Australia!" commented Linda. Dennis agreed, but they both fancied a luxury holiday in the 10. **a) sunny, b) sun, c) cold**, so they kept on calling, asking everyone they knew whether they could use their phones: "Just for a minute – and we'll 11. **a) paying, b) paid, c) pay** you back!" By the end of the day they 12. **a) had, b) has, c) have** heard the same message twenty-seven times. It was then that Linda read the small print on the back of the flyer. "It 13. **a) tells, b) says, c) saying** here calls cost a quid..." "Right," agreed Dennis. "But it's a pound 14. **a) a, b) one, c) the** minute, Dennis!" Dennis's face turned purple. Their holiday of a lifetime would have to wait. The next day Dennis went 15. **a) into, b) for, c) back** to the garage to put in some overtime.

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## Australia

### Multi-Purpose Text

#### The Flyer (Comprehension Questions)

1. Where did Dennis and Linda want to go?
2. Who had a very short summer holiday?
3. How much did each phone call cost?
4. What is the name of Linda's boyfriend?
5. Which nickname for Australia does Dennis use?
6. How did Dennis feel when he found out the full cost of the calls?
7. How many times did they phone the number on the flyer?
8. Who is Rob?
9. What did the small print say?
10. What is the name of Dennis's girlfriend?
11. Where were they walking aimlessly?
12. What did Linda find?
13. What season was it?
14. How much money did they spend on the phone calls in total?
15. How many times did they call the number from Rob's phone?
16. What were Dennis and Linda doing at the beginning of the story?
17. What did Linda read after making the phone calls?
18. Why did they phone the number on the flyer so many times?
19. When did the story take place.
20. How much holiday did Dennis have?
21. What did they hear when they dialled the number on the flyer?
22. How much did they owe by the end?
23. Where does Dennis work?
24. Why didn't they win a trip to Australia?
25. Whose grandma's mobile did they use?
26. What did Linda and Dennis fancy?
27. Did they use Linda's grandma's mobile before Dennis's dad's, or after?
28. Why was Dennis complaining at the beginning of the story?
29. Why did Dennis have to go back to work?
30. How much is a "quid"?

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#### The Flyer (True, False, or Unknown?)

1. Dennis had two weeks' holiday.
2. Dennis is taller than Linda.
3. They were on their way to the train station when Linda picked up the flyer.
4. Dennis found the flyer and gave it to Linda.
5. They didn't ask for Rob's permission to use his phone.
6. They didn't read the terms and conditions on the flyer properly.
7. Dennis's girlfriend is called Leila.
8. Dennis felt embarrassed when he got to work the next day.
9. Each call cost one pound.
10. Dennis had to work extra hours to pay for the phone calls.
11. Linda is going out with Dennis.
12. Rob was angry when he found out what had happened.
13. They wanted to win a trip to Australia.
14. At the beginning of the story Dennis and Linda were at the bank.
15. They heard the message twenty times.
16. Dennis's phone is a three-year-old Nokia.
17. The calls were expensive.
18. Linda didn't have a mobile.
19. Linda picked up the flyer and read the small print on the back.
20. Dennis and Linda have fallen for this kind of phone scam before.
21. Linda has got brown hair.
22. They didn't go on a holiday of a lifetime.
23. Linda and Dennis had been on holiday together a few months before.
24. At the beginning of the story Dennis and Linda had nothing to do.
25. Linda's grandma let them use her phone.
26. Dennis was pleased when he found out the true cost of the calls.
27. Dennis and Linda used up all the credit on their phones.
28. Linda is hoping to buy a new phone before the autumn.
29. Dennis encouraged Linda to call the number on the flyer.
30. Dennis and Linda were right to do what they did.

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### Multi-Purpose Text

#### Glossary of New Words

Here are some words and phrases from the text that may be new to students. You could either pre-teach them, or encourage your students to find translations in a bilingual dictionary and write them in the gaps below. Stressed syllables are underlined.

1. **flyer** (*noun*: leaflet advertising something) \_\_\_\_\_
2. **to spring into action** (*verb phrase*: to start doing sth. suddenly) \_\_\_\_\_
3. **to get dialling** (*verb phrase*: to make a phone call immediately) \_\_\_\_\_
4. **delights** (*noun*: attractions) \_\_\_\_\_
5. **“on this occasion”** (*adverbial*: this time) \_\_\_\_\_
6. **credit** (*noun*: money paid for making phone calls but not used yet) \_\_\_\_\_
7. **“me dad’s phone”** (*noun phrase*: “my dad’s phone” – Dennis uses slang) \_\_\_\_\_
8. **Down Under** (*place*: a common nickname for Australia) \_\_\_\_\_
9. **home phone** (*noun phrase*: a phone that is plugged into the wall at home) \_\_\_\_\_
10. **“no joy”** (*expression*: sth. doesn’t work out how you would like) \_\_\_\_\_
11. **“all that going on about Australia”** (*phrase*: Linda can’t find the right words to say. She means that she is fed up with listening to the recorded message about Australia) \_\_\_\_\_
12. **to fancy** (*verb*: to wish for) \_\_\_\_\_
13. **the small print** (*noun phrase*: the terms and conditions printed on an advert or competition) \_\_\_\_\_
14. **holiday of a lifetime** (*noun phrase*: a very special and expensive holiday) \_\_\_\_\_
15. **to put in some overtime** (*phrasal verb*: to work extra hours) \_\_\_\_\_

#### Answers

##### The Flyer (Gap-Fill – Verbs)

- |               |              |             |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. walking    | 6. told      | 11. fancied |
| 2. complained | 7. had       | 12. pay     |
| 3. picked up  | 8. suggested | 13. read    |
| 4. Get        | 9. found     | 14. turned  |
| 5. came       | 10. getting  | 15. put in  |

##### The Flyer (Multiple Choice – Use of English)

- |       |        |        |
|-------|--------|--------|
| 1. b) | 6. a)  | 11. c) |
| 2. c) | 7. c)  | 12. a) |
| 3. a) | 8. a)  | 13. b) |
| 4. b) | 9. c)  | 14. a) |
| 5. b) | 10. b) | 15. c) |

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#### The Flyer (Comprehension Questions)

1. Australia.
2. Dennis.
3. Ten pounds – one pound per minute for ten minutes.
4. Dennis.
5. Down Under.
6. He turned purple, which suggests that he felt very angry and/or embarrassed.
7. Twenty-seven.
8. Dennis's dad.
9. That each call costs one pound *per minute*, i.e. ten pounds each.
10. Linda.
11. Around the city centre.
12. A brightly-coloured flyer.
13. Summer.
14. Two hundred and seventy pounds (twenty-seven calls @ £10 each)
15. Twice (a *couple* of times).
16. Walking around the city centre aimlessly together.
17. The small print on the back of the flyer.
18. Because they wanted to win a trip to Australia.
19. In August.
20. Two weeks.
21. A recorded message about the delights of Australia.
22. Two hundred and fifty pounds (they used their own phones for the first two calls).
23. At a garage.
24. Because the competition was probably a scam (not genuine).
25. Linda's.
26. A luxury holiday in the sun.
27. After.
28. Because he didn't have any money to do anything during his holiday.
29. To earn money to pay everybody back for using their phone credit.
30. One pound.

#### The Flyer (True, False, or Unknown?)

(*T = True, F = False, U = Unknown*)

- |       |                                   |                                   |
|-------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. T  | 11. T                             | 21. U                             |
| 2. U  | 12. U                             | 22. T                             |
| 3. U  | 13. T                             | 23. U                             |
| 4. F  | 14. F                             | 24. T                             |
| 5. T  | 15. T ( <i>but 27 in total!</i> ) | 25. U                             |
| 6. T  | 16. U                             | 26. F                             |
| 7. F  | 17. T                             | 27. F                             |
| 8. U  | 18. F                             | 28. U                             |
| 9. F  | 19. F                             | 29. T                             |
| 10. T | 20. U                             | 30. U ( <i>answers may vary</i> ) |

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