**Australian English morphology**

**Diminutives and hypocoristic**

* A common feature of Australian English is the formation of diminutives by adding -o or -ie to the ends of words, which are normally abbreviated.
* Examples: arvo (afternoon), servo (service station), ambo (ambulance officer), Aussie (Australian), bikkie (biscuit), kindie (kindergarten), etc.
* Occasionally, a -za diminutive is used, usually for personal names where the first of multiple syllables ends in "r". This is used for family members and close friends.
* Exemples: Bazza (Barry), Shazza (Sharon), Kazza (Karen),etc.
* There are also a lot of abbreviations in Australian English without any suffixes.
* Examples: beaut (beautiful), nana (banana), roo (kangaroo), uni (university), etc.
* Hypocoristic consists in giving nicknames to places, formed through a shortening of the original name. This applies to countries, states, towns, suburbs, and even sports ground, schools, buildings and pubs.
* Examples: Oz (Australia), Tazzie (Tasmania), Adders (Adelaide), Brizzie (Brisbane), Rotto (Rottnest Island), etc.

**Syntax and grammatical features**

* Colloquial AusE has brought into Australian English the use of “Yous” and “You guys” as plural second person pronouns. “We’ve been waiting for you guys, yous are late!”
* Austalian English attributes gender with animate and inanimate nouns, for instance “she” can refer to a car or boat.
* The use of “whom” is almost non-existent. Most Australian people tend to favour “who”. “The girl who you described as smart has failed the exam.”
* “Me” is used instead of “I” or “my”. “Me think it sounds weird”, “He was angry at me scoring a goal.”
* –ing as a progressive indicator is often used. “I am enjoying this latest book I bought.”
* The auxiliary “have” is frequently deleted. “I been there the other day”, “I got to go.”
* Australian English speakers often use mandative subjunctive. “I beg that she come here quickly”, “I ask that he be quiet.”
* “Have” is replaced by “of” after a modal verb. “We should of gone to this party.”
* “Will” replaces “shall” in particular in first person interrogatives. “Will I buy this book?”, “Will I turn the volume of the radio up?”.
* Australian English speakers use “was” instead of “were” in past tense sentences. “We was tired so we left the party early”.
* Concerning past tense: Australian English speakers (especially speakers under 45, as proved by a 2002 survey) tend to reduce the 3 forms of some verbs to only 2 forms, for instance the verbs shrink (shrunk instead of shrank), sink (sunk instead of sank) and spring (sprung instead of sprang).
* Concerning past participle: Australian English speakers use some irregular past participles as gotten (got), proven (proved), sown (sowed).
* “Gotten” is increasingly used in intransitive constructions, as “He’s gotten really angry.”
* “Don’t” is used instead of “Doesn’t”. “She don’t want to come tonight.”
* In vernacular speech, double negation is frequently used. “You never said nothing about that.”

Phonology of Australian English

**Vowels**

In Australian English the Schwa vowel (/ə/) is sometimes used ə in an unstressed context.

For example, boxes will be pronounced boxas

You also have a difference of pronunciation of the vowel in some words:

Your, sure, pour, tour, cure, pure, the sound / ʊə/ changes for /əʊ/ and so the words are

more pronounced like that: yoar, soar, poar, toar, coar …

We can also find some concepts like :

a) **Assimilation**

The sound changes to sound differently

Ex: handbag > hambag

b) **Insertion**

In some words a vowel is added

Athlete > athelete

Film >filum

c) **Elision**

It means that in some words a sound can disappear or merge with another

Ex: old > od

Ham and eggs> haman eggs

Socks and shoes > sockn shoes

d) **Reduction of vowel**

The sound of some vowels is shortened or sometimes can disappear

Ex: basin > loss of the /i/ and becomes basn

Terrific (with French pronunciation térrific) is pronounced terrific (teuriffic)

**Consonants**

The main characteristic concerning the consonants is that the Australian English is

non-rhotic. That means that the ‘r’ after vowels is not pronounced

The 2 sounds ‘st’ or ‘t’ are more pronounced like ‘ch’ or ‘sh’

Ex: track would be pronounced chrack

Stable would be pronounced shable

You also have the substitution of ‘f’ and ‘v’ for ‘th’ sound

Mother > mover

Smother > smother

Think > fink

The pronunciation of the end of some quantifying can change

Anything> anythink

Nothing > nothink

Everything > everythink

Something > somethink

Most of the time the final consonant is weakened

The sound is softened, less rough to hear (example of bit, fit, sit)

But on the contrary in other cases you can have an emphasis on the final consonant

Examples of What, fat, mat