

3-31-2018

## How Australians Compare to Americans

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### Recommended Citation

Moellmer, Samantha, "How Australians Compare to Americans" (2018). *2017-18 Field Notes*. Essay. Submission 13.

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March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

### How Australians Compare to Americans

I decided to interview my friend Brenton. He is from Melbourne and is studying veterinary science at James Cook University in Townsville. Spending the last few months in Australia and talking with Brenton specifically about values and norms has shown me that there are a few very distinct cultural differences between here and the United States. First off, the pressure of being “politically correct” is a lot less intense here than back in the US. Often, I hear words being said that would usually be very offensive at home, but here they have a different meaning. At first, I was upset when I heard stuff like this, but I soon understand that it doesn’t have the same cultural meaning as it does back home and choosing to get upset about it didn’t make sense. Humor here is a lot drier than back home and sarcasm can be very intense. When I would meet people right when I first got here I interpreted some behavior as rude, but their humor is just very dry and it took me a while to get used to. Australians also have a lot of slang and sayings that I’m still learning! Just a few examples are cuppa (cup of tea), arvo (the afternoon), and brekkie (breakfast). I still sometimes hear words that I don’t fully understand. Based off the Australians I’ve met, it seems like they are raised on tough love and are expected to be independent. This is different from the way many people are raised in the US. A lot of Americans focus on comfort and inclusivity rather than tough love. Aside from a few minor differences, Australia and the US are relatively similar. Speaking the same language often creates similar lifestyles between countries. The food and social behavior are very similar as

well. Australian food is healthier and overall there is a bigger emphasis on physical health. Near parks there are often workout stations that anyone can use.

My interview made the differences between the two countries more obvious to me. When I first looked at this assignment, I thought that there really weren't any differences between the two countries. But once I really thought about it and talked with someone about values and norms of the country, the differences became much more obvious. Although the differences are subtle, they add up and create a unique culture in Australia.