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Postcards from Abroad

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Adventures in Australia

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Adventures in Australia Hannah Kintz

During my interview to study abroad, one of the questions they asked me was how I would respond to someone who said studying abroad in Australia would be easy because they speak English. I responded that just because Australians speak English does not mean that they have the same culture as Americans and therefore it would not be 'easy'. So far living in Australia, I have learned that is definitely the case. Although they speak English, several words and phrases we do not say in the United States. Australians often shorten words that are more than three syllables long by adding "-ie or -o" to the end. It makes things easier and faster to say. Several of the words below are words I've learned from social context and how they were used in sentences.

Some examples include:

- Uni= University. College is not a word used in Australia, whenever I've said I go to Linfield College, they often ask why it's not called 'University'.
- Capsicum= peppers
- Brekkie= breakfast
- Arvo= afternoon
- Queue= wait, line
- Heaps= a lot, many
- Timetable= schedule
- Maccas= McDonald's
- "Break for morning tea"= break during the morning, there is no actual tea involved.
- How you going? = How are you? (Often asked by sales associates/customer service workers)

Other than language, I learned that Australia is a different culture. Although they are very much like the United States in some ways, they are also quite different. For example, as soon as I hopped off the plane I immediately noticed how laid back and relaxed everyone is. Australians like to keep things simple and their national slogan is 'no worries, mate'. You'll often see people around Uni or in town not wearing shoes, and that is completely normal and something very different from America. The atmosphere is relaxed compared to the hustle and bustle I am used to, and there is a lot less stress in terms of deadlines and time. On the first day of class, one student showed up an hour late and it was no problem at all, the instructor joked with the student and welcomed him to the class. Being in Australia, the people have definitely taught me to let go of some things and simply relax and enjoy my time here.

What an adventurous time in Australia! Last week I scuba dived on the Great Barrier Reef! I can honestly say that witnessing the Great Barrier Reef is one of the

most beautiful things I have ever seen. Bright coral and exotic fish surrounded me on my dive and it was a very dream-like experience.



The picture above is of my friend and I with the famous Wally the Maori Wrasse. Despite Wally's large size, he is extremely friendly with humans and is very photogenic. He is often referred to as the reef's 'pet' because he is so interactive with humans, but he is completely wild and free. Diving on the Great Barrier Reef has always been on my bucket list. Thank you Linfield College for giving me the opportunity to study abroad and make my dreams a reality!