



# HOW TO BEHAVE IN AUSTRALIA



*Australian culture can be different compared to some European cultures. Read about what to do and what not to do while you are visiting Australia.*



When you first arrive in Australia, you might notice that their etiquette, values and lifestyle are different from yours. They are quite **laid back** and informal people. There isn't much importance put on someone's social class or job, everyone is on the same level.

**How to talk to people** – When greeting someone of your own age group, you can call them by their first name. But if you meet someone who is older than you, it is respectful at the beginning of the relationship to call them *Mr*, *Ms*, or *Mrs* followed by their surname. You should continue calling them by this title until they ask you to call them by their first name.

**Eye contact** – Australians are very particular about eye contact. It is important to make direct eye contact with “Aussies” while you are speaking to them.

**Personal Space** – Most Australians like to have a little space between themselves and the person they are talking with. Do not stand very close to them and definitely do not touch a person you don't know very well; this might make them feel quite uncomfortable.

**Dress** – The fashion world hasn't really come to Australia. As we have already mentioned, Australians are laid back people and their casual attitude reflects their clothing. They prefer feeling comfortable in their clothing and dressing casually, with shorts, t-shirts and sandals. If you need to dress formally, they will usually tell you what to wear in advance.



**Queuing** – Australians usually get into neat, organised lines when they are waiting for something, such as a taxi or tickets. Never push your way through a line or try to “jump” the line. “Aussies” will not tolerate this behaviour and you might get an **earful** from them.

**Punctuality** – Even though Australians are relaxed people, they do not accept lateness. If you have a problem and are late or unable to come, always phone before and explain your situation. It is very rude to leave a person waiting in Australia.

**Smoking** – Smoking in Australia is prohibited in all government buildings and on public transport. It is also prohibited in most restaurants, bars and shopping centres. If you smoke, you should always go outside and not smoke near other people. Never **assume** that smoking is allowed; always ask first. If you smoke in non-smoking areas, you will be **fined**.

**Littering** – Throwing your rubbish in the street in Australia is totally unacceptable. Australian people are very protective of the environment and **littering** is inappropriate. You can also be fined for littering.



## GLOSSARY

**laid back:** rilassata.

**earful:** rimprovero.

**assume:** supporre, ritenere.

**fined:** multato.

**littering:** lasciare rifiuti in giro.





## COMPARING CULTURES

After reading about how to behave yourself in Australia, write the DOs and DON'Ts of your country.

YOUR COUNTRY:	DO	DON'T
HOW TO TALK TO PEOPLE	..... ..... .....	..... ..... .....
EYE CONTACT	..... ..... .....	..... ..... .....
PERSONAL SPACE	..... ..... .....	..... ..... .....
DRESS	..... ..... .....	..... ..... .....
QUEUING	..... ..... .....	..... ..... .....
PUNCTUALITY	..... ..... .....	..... ..... .....
SMOKING	..... ..... .....	..... ..... .....
LITTERING	..... ..... .....	..... ..... .....

## SPEAKING

Discuss the following questions with your partner.

- 1) What aspects of Australian culture would you like to import into your country?
- 2) What do you like more about your culture?
- 3) Do you think there is a big difference between your culture and Australian culture?
- 4) Do the majority of people follow the rules of society in your city?