

Talk a Lot

Australia

Role Plays

1. "This is for Pru in Woolloomooloo!"

Place: A travel agent's
Time: 10.34 am
Characters: You and a rather bizarre travel agent
Situation: You want to book a return flight to Perth in Western Australia to visit your sister, who you haven't seen for four years. You'd also like to book a three- or four-star hotel for twenty nights, and hire a rental car...

Scenes: i) Tell the travel agent your plans and ask them to arrange your flight, accommodation, and car. The travel agent – who behaves quite oddly throughout – takes your payment and promises to mail you your tickets
ii) A few days later, you receive your tickets, but the travel agent has booked you two weeks in Woolloomooloo – a docklands suburb of Sydney, New South Wales – on the other side of Australia. Go back to complain. The travel agent explains that their ex-wife, Pru, lives in Woolloomooloo, and begs you to take them a package (ten blue cotton handkerchiefs)
iii) You decide to be philosophical about the mix-up and agree to take the package to Woolloomooloo. When you return to your country, you rush back to the travel agent's with an urgent, shocking message from their relative...

If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:

- a) *The travel agent's ex-wife, Pru from Woolloomooloo*
- b) *Your sister, who is disappointed that you went to Sydney rather than Perth*

2. "Have I told you my dingo stories?"

Place: A remote part of the Australian Outback
Time: A starry night. 1.26 am
Characters: You and a colleague
Situation: Your work has organised a team-building walking expedition in the Outback where you have to carry all of your own kit and make a camp every night beneath the stars. The rest of your colleagues are fast asleep, except one...

Scenes: i) Remind your colleague of the time when you once fought off an aggressive dingo. Your colleague is sceptical, but can't sleep, due to insomnia
ii) A few minutes later: recall a tall tale about how you once witnessed a dingo killing an elephant at a safari park in New Delhi. Your colleague tries to sleep
iii) Your colleague has finally got to sleep. However, you suddenly notice a pack of wild dingoes approaching your camp. You try to wake your colleague, but they find it hard to believe your stories, and would much rather sleep...

If there are three people in the group, the third character could be:

- a) *Another colleague, who is allergic to absolutely everything in the Outback*
- b) *A grizzled old Bushman, who is an expert at rounding up pesky dingoes*

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Role Play Extensions

Here are some additional situations for students to use as starting points for new role plays based on the topic of "Australia":

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Australia

1. It's your first day at work on a popular Australian soap opera. You are a famous soap actor and you believe that you will be the number one actor on the show. However, you meet another actor, who is also starting work there today. You're very jealous of this actor because they have had parts in successful Hollywood movies, and you haven't. First speak to the director about getting a bigger part in the soap than your rival. Use your influence as a well-known soap star to persuade them. Next speak to the lighting designer and camera operator about making yourself look slimmer on camera than your rival. Offer them a few dollars to make it worth their while. Finally, speak to the make-up artist about your rival. Offer them the use of your luxury yacht if they will make your rival appear less tanned than you...

2. You are on a boring coach trip in the Australian Outback with a large party of tourists. You stop at a small town by a creek where everybody is shown how to pan for gold. A few people find very small nuggets of unrefined gold, and everybody gets very excited. Suddenly you uncover a huge gold nugget that weighs about 2 kg. Your dilemma is how to get it back onto the coach without anybody else noticing it. First, the tour group leader wanders over to see how you're getting on; then a nosey middle-aged tourist wants to borrow your shovel; and finally one of the locals from a nearby watering hole comes over to invite everybody for a drink. Whatever happens, don't let anybody else get your gold!

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