

Book Two

UNDERSTANDING

Everyday Australian

*A focus on spoken language
with language reviews, exercises and answers.*



To be used with audio recording

Susan Boyer

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with language reviews, exercises and answers*

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DEAR ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDENT,

Welcome to ***Understanding Everyday Australian - Book Two***. This book, along with its accompanying audio recording, has been designed to help you to understand English as it is spoken in everyday situations in Australia. As a student of English as a second language, I am sure you are aware of the difference between the formally presented language of the textbook and the speech you hear, outside the language classroom, in your daily activities and conversations with Australians.

Using this book, along with its accompanying audio cassette, you will discover the meaning of many widely used colloquial expressions. The book also focuses on other aspects of spoken English which are employed by native speakers every day. For example, you will learn expressions used when offering advice, making requests and disagreeing politely. You will also practise listening for important aspects of English pronunciation, such as the use of unstressed syllables and sound linking between words, as well as the different sounds of English.

In some units of this book you are asked to check words in a dictionary, so have a good dictionary nearby while you are studying. Because English words are not always pronounced as they are spelt, you will also need to use a dictionary to learn the correct pronunciation. ***A good dictionary will give clear examples of pronunciation and a pronunciation key.*** The Pronunciation Key (usually at the front of the dictionary) will show symbols used for different sounds.

NOTE

Many dictionaries use the same pronunciation symbols as the **PHONEMIC CHART** at the back of this book. However, some dictionaries use different symbols, so it's important to check which symbols ***your*** dictionary uses.

I sincerely hope you enjoy and benefit from using ***Understanding Everyday Australian - Book Two***.

Susan Boyer

ABOUT THIS BOOK

Understanding Everyday Australian - Book Two has been designed so that you can work through it alone, without the help of a teacher, or in a classroom situation with other students. The book contains ten units of work, each based on a conversation about a particular topic. The units are divided into **six parts** which have been designed to introduce unfamiliar language, **step by step**, in a gradual and systematic way. The layout of the book is as follows:

Part 1 - Focus on listening for general understanding

Part 1 introduces the topic and invites you to listen to an everyday conversation and answer a few general questions by putting a tick next to the correct answers. You will be listening for **general** understanding of the conversation only. (You will not need to understand every word). This is an important step as it will help you to realise that it's not always necessary to hear every word to understand the general meaning of a conversation. In some units, you are asked to check words in a dictionary, so have a dictionary nearby when you are studying.

Part 2 - Focus on reading & finding the meaning

In this section, you will **read** Conversation 1 as you listen again. When you have finished listening, your task is to **compare Conversation 1 with Conversation 2** (which will be next to Conversation 1). Conversation 1 contains the everyday expressions and Conversation 2 contains an interpretation of the expressions in Conversation 1. This section will help you to learn the **meaning** of the everyday expressions.

Part 3 - Focus on listening for detail

Now you will listen to Conversation 1 again and write in the missing words in the spaces as you hear them. Don't worry about spelling as this exercise focuses on your **listening skills**. Listen to the conversation as many times as you like, then check your answers (and spelling) by comparing what you have written with Conversation 1.

Part 4 - Focus on writing for reinforcement

This section reinforces (strengthens) your memory as you listen once more to Conversation 1 and tick the newly learnt everyday expressions on the list as you hear them. Then you are asked to look at the list of expressions (all taken from Conversation 1) and try to remember their meaning. Write in the ones that you can remember, then check your answers by reading Conversation 1 again or checking the reference list at the back of the book. This may seem like hard work but **writing** the meanings of the newly learnt expressions is a useful way of reinforcing what you have just heard and read.

Part 5 - Focus on revision

Now it's time to test yourself and see what you have learnt by trying the language review. In this section, you are asked to use the newly learnt expressions in a different context. Firstly, you are asked to complete sentences with an appropriate expression and then complete a crossword. The answers to the crosswords can be found in the back of the book.

Part 6 - Focus on spoken language

This section focuses on other aspects of spoken English which make it difficult for learners to understand native speakers. Each unit highlights and explains a particular aspect of pronunciation, sentence structure or conversation strategy which was used by the speakers in Conversation 1 of that unit. In this section, there will be exercises for you to complete to help you understand, learn and remember.

Language Reviews

After Unit 3, Unit 6 and Unit 10, you will find a language review which consists of the recently introduced expressions and pictures for you to match together. This will help you to see how much you have remembered. Don't worry if you make a mistake - you are still learning.

IMPORTANT NOTE TO STUDENTS

Please be aware that the meaning of colloquial language is ***very dependent on the context or situation in which it is used***. 'Understanding Everyday Australian' has been designed to ***introduce and explain*** the meaning of colloquial expressions used by English speakers in the everyday situations presented in this book. However, because colloquial expressions can have different meanings in different situations, it is not advisable that students of Australian English immediately begin using the newly introduced expressions indiscriminately. It would be much better to spend time listening, recognising, and understanding the correct meaning of expressions in different situations ***before you use them*** in your conversations. Therefore, the author and publisher of this book will not be responsible to any person, with regard to the misuse of language, caused directly or indirectly by the information presented in this book.

UNDERSTANDING EVERYDAY AUSTRALIAN - BOOK TWO

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