**Australia, New Zealand, South Africa**

**Taressa – Australia**

Between colleagues who work together, yes, it can be very informal. Um … however, if you are dealing with somebody who you’ve never dealt with before, … uh … particularly in the world of politics, I mean, you would never be … um … sort of … uh … it⎯ that could be seen as quite rude to not have a formal email. But if you’re working⎯ if you’re emailing back and forth between a colleague that you know⎯ yourself and a colleague you know very well, then no, I mean, it’s … um … it’s a way to make work fun, I guess.

The thing that I find … funny about myself is that the more comfortable I am with somebody, the less I think about having to … not speak Australian with all of the little, you know quirks and … um … and actually concentrate on what I’m saying. Because I know sometimes I’ve just mortified some of my colleagues he⎯ over here when I say something and it’s just so improper – but I don’t mean it in that way, it’s just you know … uh … what else? I’m just trying to think… I mean, I guess, you know … uh … things, yeah, there are loads of sayings that I constantly get asked to explain. Of course, I can’t think of any of them now, but it’s things like, you know, shortening words like barbie instead of barbecue and … um. Well, I guess, the other thing, too, is that … uh … I don’t⎯ there’s a TV series called Kath and Kim that … um … essentially takes the mickey out of sort of middle Australia. So you know the⎯ there’s a big thing in Australia about owning your own house and, you know, being a home-owner and that’s⎯ that’s really … um … what a lot of people sort of strive for and because there’s so much space over there, it’s quite easy just to keep building … houses. Um … so it’s set in Melbourne, which … um … is a capital city of one of the states that considers itself to be incredibly arty but, of course, in⎯ in any city there are the sort of very suburban folk. And so … it was an incredibly funny and popular series and a lot of their sayings that they used became Australian … um … convers⎯ not conversation but became used constantly. So … um … they had very, very Australian accents so things, like, they would say that something was really ‘noice’ which is nice … um … which you know that is something that Australians always sort of … um … use as a joke. Um … and they had little sayings, like, if⎯ if they were complimenting – it was a mother and daughter … um … sort of team – very, very funny. Um … and they used to, if they were re⎯ complimenting the other on an outfit or a choice or, you know some food, it⎯ it was sort of, and I⎯ I could embarrass myself by doing this but you know they’d say, ‘oh nice, different, unusual, yes mmm, different yes, nice mmm’. So it’s sort of … um … Australians very rarely speak in proper sentences and, you know, think things through before it comes out of their mouths. ’Cause everything⎯ it’s just so laid back and, you know, even at work it’s quite laid back.

Brisbane was⎯ is a great place because it has this fantastic music scene, it’s the best city in Australia for coffee: Brisbanites have … a⎯ a⎯ a good cup of coffee is worth its weight in gold and you could walk into almost any café in Brisbane and you could be assured that you’d have great cup of coffee so … um … and a lot of very funky, cool couples from Sydney and Melbourne involved, you know, in the arts scene or … um … in the food scene moved up to Brisbane because it was cheaper – cheaper rent, say for restaurants, cheaper rent for houses, so, probably … um … in the last ten years it has just blossomed and the food in Brisbane as well is second to none and I think, well, I, of course, I’m completely biased but I love Brisbane so much because it’s still got that very relaxed attitude but we have you know fantastic food, great music scene, ... um ... great arts scene, a great writing scene as well … um … and a great writer’s festival. So yeah … it’s buzzing.

**Marcello – South Africa**

My father’s got a business there which … uh … we do the speciality of biltong, I don’t know if⎯ . Biltong is a⎯ a dried meat⎯ a cured, dried meat which is a delicacy in South Africa. He does about fifteen tonnes in a month, which is massive. And he’s about sixty-five now so he’s getting a bit old for the business. And he also feels like he wants to go travel now and⎯ and enjoy his life so he’s asked us to come over and run the business so…

Uh … biltong … um … me and him actually started it about five years ago … um … with one silver-sided. One⎯ a silver side is a piece from the⎯ from the beef – one silver side per week, which we started off with, just to⎯ just as a hobby and then it grew up to about fifteen tonnes in a month now. It’s … uh … you dry it with … uh … forty per cent humidity and about eighteen degrees Celsius is a perfect temperature in humidity to get rid of all the … uh … the wetness inside of the meat without it going rotten, where I say, and you have some vinegar in there and some special spices.

When⎯ when we watch rugby … which is … uh … um … then when we eat the biltong or whatever, yeah, you can have these packets hanging in⎯ in little … uh … shops, you can have them hanging in … um … petrol stations. And people come in and they buy two, three kilos at a time, they take it home, it’s preserved so it can⎯ it can keep for a while. You don’t have to eat this right away.

Oh, you get different tastes. You get⎯ you can make it a chutney flavour or you can make it a … um … masala flavour or …. most⎯ most flavours is just like salt, pepper and vinegar flavour.

A lot of people think that it’s a easy business to start because … uh … the ones that start, that are successful, looks very easy. And then when they start it, they see that it’s not that easy because there’s a lot of things that you have to take in consideration, as well, with the meat and with the spices and how to dry it and all this kind of stuff. Because basically if you’re gonna have one bad batch, you’re gonna lose a lot of money. And if you’re starting off, you need to know exactly what you’re doing. So there is a lot of competition, so you need to be on the ball and your product really needs to be the best.

**Liz – NZ**

I’m from New Zealand … uh … a place called Tauranga which is about two and a half hours down the east coast of … um … the North Island. I grew up there from about 5 till I was about 17, and then I moved to Palmerstone North where I went to university, which is just about 2 hours north of Wellington, the bottom of the North Island.

Australia and New Zealand are quite different … even terrain wise. In particular I was amazed when I went to Australia for the first time because I, too, was expecting it to be quite similar. Um … New Zealand is very lush and green … um … Australia is … quite red. And the trees aren’t very bushy, so it is all the eucalyptus trees rather than New Zealand’s got really … uh … large, got large, … uh … bushy trees with lots of birds and insects but no … scary animals. And Australia is⎯ looks more barren … uh … but it’s really beautiful as well with the eucalyptus trees and … the animals are more ferocious. And they’ve got spiders and snakes and koalas and wallabies … um … but New Zealand just has the birds and a few lizards … um … and a lot of the birds don’t fly and the people are slightly different. Australia’s got a lot of⎯ a large Italian community and Greek community. Uh … New Zealand is basically all made up of emigrants from the UK. There’s quite a lot of Asians that have come from … Japan and Malaysia … um … and more so India now, but when I was growing up it was a lot⎯ a lot more just Europeans from the UK. I think Australia is more multicultural other than the indigenous communities of both, which is also both the indigenous communities are very different as well from each other.

I think the indigenous people, I’m not an expert on the subject. But the indigenous people from Australia have been there for a very, very long time and had lived in the desert for a long, long time. And I don’t think had … um … encountered anybody for a long time until Europeans went there. Uh … the Maori people travelled from somewhere, I don’t think anyone knows exactly where but I think it’s … sort of thought that from Hawaii and they travelled over in boats … um … and they were⎯ they fought a lot amongst themselves so they were more advanced at warfare than the … um … indigenous people in … Australia as well. And they communicated a lot differently and they traded and so I think them as people, as well as what happened to them after Europeans arrived in the land differs. So their history seems to be quite different in both countries and it is still a two and a half hour flight from New Zealand to Australia, they’re not joined.

In New Zealand the … big companies that are international companies would be based in Auckland and Wellington. They don’t get out of those main centres much. Um … so there’s that sort of industry, like there is here: head offices, … um … a lot of stuff comes in from Australia. The main … um …⎯ the biggest part of their economy has historically been⎯ this has been changing over the years. I don’t know exact amounts these days but it was always agriculture, so exporting lamb, butter …, milk and fruit, kiwi fruit, of course. Um … and they traded mostly with the UK and Australia and then when the UK entered the eurozone there was a lot of pressure on them to reduce exports from New Zealand because it was … um … hindering the … trading within … um … the Europe⎯ eurozone. They still were allowed to trade but it has decreased and now they’re trading more with Australia so there’s a lot of trading between the two countries and with Asia, so as one market’s reducing another one’s replacing it. So there’s still large agricultural … um … industry there but more …⎯ but more getting involved with … um … technology as most economies are better growing in the ad⎯ in the developed world, I think.