

Australia Joins Eurovision

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This year's 60th European Song Contest extravaganza will take place in the Central European country of Austria, in its capital Vienna. The country won the right to host the contest when Conchita Wurst, who was their representative choice of singer last year, won in Copenhagen. A total of 40 countries will compete in this year's song contest. The final will be broadcast on Saturday 23rd May.

The European Broadcasting Union has said Australia had been given a wildcard for the final "to not reduce its chances" of the semi-final participants and because of the one off nature of its participation.

Australia actually has a chance of hosting the contest should it win it. If it does - it'll be "G'day Sheila" or whoever, with a possible huge party down under. Certainly, there could be a gay old time should Australia actually win, and why not?

Let's face it, Australia have probably got a better chance of winning than the United Kingdom/Le Royaume Uni entry. These days the UK entry generally comes last, or nearly last!

Eurovision is actually hugely popular in Australia. Its audience down under has grown steadily over the last 30 years. You never know, we might even see Kylie Minogue represent Australia, and she's definitely a real Sheila!

SPEAKING – WARM UP

Think of three things you know about the Eurovision Song Contest. Go round the room swapping details with others.

LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

1) The article – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

2) The article - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

3) Article quiz - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

Student A questions

- 1) What is a didgeridoo?
- 2) What is a boomerang?
- 3) Where is Austria and where is Australia?
- 4) What is a 'wildcard'?
- 5) Who is Conchita Wurst?

Student B questions

- 1) What is the Eurovision Song Contest?
- 2) What is 'a Sheila'?
- 3) Who is Kylie Minogue?
- 4) In what city and country is this year's Eurovision song Contest taking place?
- 5) How many countries will compete in the song contest this year?

Australia Joins Eurovision – 25th February 2015

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs. On the board write as many words about the '**Eurovision Song Contest**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

WRITING / SPEAKING

In pairs choose three things you know about the Eurovision Song Contest. Write them below. Talk about them!

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

Add three other things you know about it, for example, your country's entry. Discuss together.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

The teacher will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

SPEAKING - GAME

As a class/In pairs – List five memorable Eurovision Song Contests. What year were they in? Can you remember who won? Talk about these contests. Which was best? Which was terrible?

DISCUSSION

Student A questions

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Have you ever been to Austria? Explain.
- 3) Who do you think will win this year's Eurovision song Contest?
- 4) Has Eurovision got too big?
- 5) Does your country take part in Eurovision? Explain.
- 6) Is Eurovision too camp?
- 7) Is Eurovision too costly for some nations to take part? Explain.
- 8) Would you go to Australia to watch next year's contest if they win?
- 9) In Eurovision, why do many countries always vote for the country next door to them?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1

In groups. One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM* radio studio in Vienna. Today's interview is about: *Australia Joins Eurovision.*

- 1) A gay Eurovision supporter.
- 2) An Austrian TV network spokesperson.
- 3) A Eurovision spokesperson.
- 4) An Australian Eurovision fan.

The teacher will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2

In pairs - Student A loves Eurovision. Student B positively hates it! *3 mins.*

SPEAKING - GAME

As a class – Form a circle – "I went to Vienna and I saw..."

Go round the circle and repeat the previous words used. Forget a word and you are eliminated! *5 mins.*

SPEAKING - DISCUSSION

Allow 10 minutes – As a class.

Discuss the following...

The Eurovision Song Contest

The teacher can moderate the session.

DISCUSSION

Student B questions

- 1) Think of three things you know about Conchita Wurst.
- 2) Do you watch the Eurovision Song Contest?
- 3) Have you ever tried to play a didgeridoo or fly a boomerang? Explain.
- 4) Is the Eurovision Song Contest just a bit of fun?
- 5) When did your country last take part in Eurovision?
- 6) Which was your favourite Eurovision song Contest?
- 7) Does your country organise other song contests? Explain.
- 8) Think of three things you like about Eurovision.
- 9) What would you change in Eurovision?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

GAP FILL: READING

Australia Joins Eurovision

Eurovision Song Contest fans recently discovered that Australia has been invited to join in the fun of the annual singing (1)__. Hang on a minute sport, Australia is not in Europe! Well, strike me down with a (2)__, you're right, it's not! But who gives a (3)__ about that? Of course, there will be those that say Israel, Morocco and Azerbaijan are not in Europe, but hey, it is after all just a bit of fun, right?

This year's 60th European Song Contest (4)__ will take place in the Central European country of Austria, in its (5)__ Vienna. The country won the right to (6)__ the contest when Conchita Wurst, who was their (7)__ choice of singer last year, won in Copenhagen. A total of 40 countries will compete in this year's song contest. The (8)__ will be broadcast on Saturday 23rd May.

representative / capital / didgeridoo / final / extravaganza / host / boomerang / contest

The European Broadcasting Union has said Australia had been given a wildcard for the final "to not (1)__ its chances" of the semi-final participants and because of the one off nature of its (2)__.

Australia actually has a chance of hosting the contest should it win it. If it does - it'll be "G'day Sheila" or whoever, with a possible huge (3)__ down under. Certainly, there could be a (4)__ old time should Australia (5)__ win, and why not?

Let's face it, Australia have probably got a better chance of winning than the United Kingdom/Le Royaume Uni entry. These days the UK (6)__ generally comes last, or nearly last!

Eurovision is actually hugely popular in Australia. Its audience down under has grown (7)__ over the last 30 years. You never know, we might even see Kylie Minogue represent Australia, and she's (8)__ a real Sheila!

participation / entry / steadily / definitely / actually / reduce / party / gay

GAP FILL: GRAMMAR

Australia Joins Eurovision

Eurovision Song Contest fans recently discovered (1)__ Australia has been invited to join in the fun of the annual singing contest. Hang on a minute sport, Australia is not in Europe! (2)__, strike me down with a boomerang, you're right, it's not! But who gives a didgeridoo about that? Of course, there will be (3)__ that say Israel, Morocco and Azerbaijan are not in Europe, (4)__ hey, it is after all (5)__ a bit of fun, right?

(6)__ year's 60th European Song Contest extravaganza will take place in the Central European country of Austria, in its capital Vienna. The country won the right to host the contest (7)__ Conchita Wurst, who was (8)__ representative choice of singer last year, won in Copenhagen. A total of 40 countries will compete in this year's song contest. The final will be broadcast on Saturday 23rd May.

just / their / that / when / those / this / well / but

The European Broadcasting Union has said Australia had been given a wildcard (1)__ the final "to not reduce its chances" of the semi-final participants and because (2)__ the one off nature of its participation.

Australia actually has a chance of hosting the contest should it win it. (3)__ it does - it'll be "G'day Sheila" or whoever, with a possible huge party down under. Certainly, there could be a gay old time should Australia actually win, and (4)__ not?

Let's face it, Australia have probably got a better chance of winning than the United Kingdom/Le Royaume Uni entry. These days the UK entry generally comes last, (5)__ nearly last!

Eurovision is actually hugely popular in Australia. Its audience down has grown steadily over the last 30 years. (6)__ never know, (7)__ might even see Kylie Minogue represent Australia, and (8)__'s definitely a real Sheila!

or / we / if / of / why / for / she / you

GAP FILL: LISTENING

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WRITING/SPELLING

WRITING / SPEAKING

1) On the board – As a class / In pairs - List five advantages and disadvantages of hosting the Eurovision Song Contest. *Five minutes. Discuss together.*

2) Sentence starters - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) My country _____
- 2) The song contest _____
- 3) Austria _____

3) Homework - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: **Australia Joins Eurovision**. Your email can be read out in class.

GAP FILL READING

- 1) contest
- 2) boomerang
- 3) didgeridoo
- 4) extravaganza
- 5) capital
- 6) host
- 7) representative
- 8) final

ANSWERS

- 1) reduce
- 2) participation
- 3) party
- 4) gay
- 5) actually
- 6) entry
- 7) steadily
- 8) definitely

SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) Australia
- 2) boomerang
- 3) didgeridoo
- 4) Sheila
- 5) participation
- 6) wildcard
- 7) reduce
- 8) because
- 9) actually
- 10) possible

SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

Pass = 12

Good = 15

Very good = 18

Excellent = 20

- 11) Eurovision
- 12) audience
- 13) steadily
- 14) might
- 15) definitely
- 16) annual
- 17) extravaganza
- 18) just
- 19) should
- 20) certainly

Australia Joins Eurovision – 25th February 2015