ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

World Englishes Quiz: Australian, Irish and Indian English Words

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Explanations

1. In Sydney, “See you this ___” means “See you this afternoon”.
✔ **B) arvo**
Arvo is informal Australian English for afternoon. Australians often shorten words and add -o or -ie.

2. In Canada, what are a toque and a loonie?
✔ **A) a winter hat and a one-dollar coin**
A toque is a warm knitted hat; a loonie is the one-dollar coin with a loon (a water bird) on it.

3. “How was the party in Cork?” “Brilliant music, and the ___ was great.”
✔ **D) craic**
Craic is Irish English for fun, good company and lively talk.

4. A farmer in Queensland throws two dogs and a box of tools in the back of his ___.
✔ **A) ute**
A ute is an Australian and New Zealand car with an open back, like an American pickup truck.

5. Where would someone in Auckland buy milk and bread on the corner of their street?
✔ **C) at the dairy**
In New Zealand, a dairy is a small corner shop.

6. In South Africa, a robot is ___, and a braai is ___.
✔ **B) a traffic light … a barbecue**
A robot is a traffic light, and a braai is a barbecue (the fire, the meal and the party). Braai comes from Afrikaans.

7. In Perth, Mia took off her ___ and walked across the hot sand to the sea.
✔ **B) thongs**
Australian thongs are rubber beach shoes, called flip-flops in Britain. In Britain, a thong is underwear.

8. A Scottish friend says, “Let’s take a wee walk down to the loch.” What is she suggesting?
✔ **D) a short walk to a lake**
Wee means small or short in Scotland, and a loch is a Scottish lake.

9. Indian English: “The exam was on Friday, but it has been ___ to Wednesday.”
✔ **B) preponed**
Prepone means move to an earlier time. Postpone means move to a later time, so it does not fit here.

10. A flat in Mumbai costs 50 lakh rupees. How much is that?
✔ **C) five million rupees**
One lakh is 100,000, so 50 lakh is 5,000,000.

11. Pilots from every country speak English to control towers: English is the ___ of the air.
✔ **C) lingua franca**
A lingua franca is the shared language of people who have different first languages.

12. Café, tsunami and safari are all ___ in English.
✔ **D) loanwords**
A loanword is a word English took from another language: French, Japanese and Swahili here.

13. Nigerian English, Irish English and Indian English are all ___ of English.
✔ **C) varieties**
A variety has its own sounds, words and sometimes grammar. An accent is only the sound.

14. In a Toronto shopping centre: “Excuse me, where’s the ___?” (You need a toilet.)
✔ **A) washroom**
Washroom is the polite Canadian word for a public toilet; Americans say restroom.

15. A waiter in Dublin asks if everything is OK with your meal. You are happy. You say:
✔ **D) “I’m grand, thanks.”**
In Irish English, I’m grand means I’m fine, no problem.

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