

ENGLISH CORNER MENU

Learning English through Discussion

Multiculturalism?

Next weekend, May 21-22 is the Greek Festival at Musgrave Park in South Brisbane. Because Australia is a multicultural country, there are many cultural festivals. What is multiculturalism? An easy definition is many cultures living together.

Multicultural Australia Quiz ...In pairs guess...

True or False

1. 43 % of the Australian population was either born overseas or had at least one parent born overseas
2. There are people from 120 countries living in Australia?
3. At the end of WW11, Australia's population was 7 million with around 90% born in Australia. Today the population is 21 million, with 75% born in Australia.
4. The most common language other than English spoken in Australia is Vietnamese.

Hot Topics

1. Is your country multicultural? Why or why not? What other cultures are living in your country?

2. The Multicultural debate. Break your group into two teams. **Multiculturalism is a good thing.** Team 1, you have to **agree** with this statement. Together discuss reasons why multiculturalism is **good**. For example: *I think multiculturalism is good because we can learn about other cultures...* Team 2; discuss reasons why it is **bad**. For example, *I think multiculturalism is bad because people from different cultures are too different and history shows that people from different cultures cannot live together peacefully...* Then present your ideas to the whole group. The teacher will facilitate the debate.

3. Is multiculturalism possible in today's world? Why or why not? Discuss in pairs.

4. Sometimes one culture thinks it is better than other cultures. 2000 years ago, some Jewish people thought they were more special than other cultures around them. In response to this Paul, a Jewish Christian wrote in the Bible (Galatians 3:28):

"It is through faith we are all God's children, united by Christ. So there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles (people from other cultures) between slaves and free people, between men and women; we are all one in Jesus Christ.

5. What was Paul telling the Jewish and Gentile Christians? What can people from different cultures have in common and how?

Vocabulary

Faith: To believe in someone or something.

United: joined together.

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