Australian English

When Europeans started living in Australia at the end of the eighteenth century, there were over 200 different native languages spoken there, by the Aboriginal people or original inhabitants of the country. From these native languages a number of words came into English such as didgeridoo and billabong.

GETTING STARTED

Match up the following words with the definitions below.

- dingo
- kangaroo
- koala
- boomerang
- kookaburra

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORD</th>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>A curved piece of wood that can be thrown so that it returns to the thrower.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>An Australian wild dog.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>An Australian animal that looks like a small bear.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>A large Australian kingfisher with a loud call.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>An Australian animal that jumps around on its strong hind legs.</td>
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MOVING ON

Work out whether the following definitions for Australian English words are true or false.

1. Billabong is a bundle carried by a man in the bush.   T / F
2. Cobber means friend or companion.                     T / F
3. Dinkum means false or dishonest.                      T / F
4. Fossick is an Australian word for an old person.      T / F
5. Crook means sick or unwell.                           T / F

How many did you get right?

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