

Exercise 6.2 Text following – Australia

Speaker Copy
Listener Copy

Instructions from the Speaker to the Listener

I will read the following passage. Follow the passage by pointing to each word as I speak it. When I stop, repeat the last word I said. (The Speaker decides where to stop reading and should do so several times during the text).

Australia

The continent of Australia is about 7,000 miles southwest of California. It is both a continent and an island and is almost exactly the same size as the mainland United States. The Nullarbor is the second largest desert in the world and means 'no trees' in Latin. Because of this huge desert, most of the population live around the coastal borders. There are seven states, including the island of Tasmania.

One of the most interesting features of this country is the animals. The most well-known is the koala bear, of course. In fact, the koala is not really a bear because it has a pouch in which it carries its young. The koala lives in a special kind of eucalyptus tree, because the koala will eat only the leaves from this tree.

Another animal is the wallaby. This is a miniature kangaroo. It has very big eyes and very long claws and is more friendly than a kangaroo. There are several kinds of kangaroos: gray ones, red ones, and brown ones. They have very large hind feet and a long tapered tail that make it possible for them to leap great distances. They can move faster than fifty miles per hour. In the north of Australia, kangaroos can be found in the wild very easily. However, wild Australian animals are not usually found wandering the streets of any major city.

There are many other interesting things in this land called 'Down Under'.