

Australia hotel bans emus for bad behaviour

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Two emus have been banned from entering a hotel in Australia's Outback. The emu is the world's second-largest living bird by height and is native to Australia. The two banned emus are siblings (brother and sister). The four-room Yaraka Hotel in the

state of Queensland barred the giant birds because of bad behaviour. The birds are called Kevin and Carol. They were well known at the hotel for popping in for a few biscuits or a slice of toast. However, recently, the two birds have become a nuisance to the guests staying at the hotel. Co-owner Chris Gimblett has put rope across the stairs leading up to the hotel to keep the birds out. There is also a sign for guests saying: "Please let yourself through the emu barrier."

One of the reasons for the emu ban is that the birds have learned to climb the stairs. They have been wandering up to the hotel's bedrooms and shocking guests in the corridor. Mr Gimblett said: "Travellers have to be very cautious with the emus because they will poke their heads in...and drink all the coffee...and steal your toast. And if you have a barbecue, watch out because they'll take everything." He added: "You don't want to get between an emu and its food. They've got very sharp beaks and they're a bit like a vacuum cleaner where food is concerned." He warned: "Because they do eat so much food, their toiletry habits are very frequent.... imagine a sloppy bowl of porridge from a height of a metre."

Sources: cnn.com / brisbanetimes.com / 7news.com.au

Writing

Animals and birds should never be allowed in hotels. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Outback / bird / height / giant / bad behaviour / biscuits / toast / nuisance / barrier / climb / stairs / bedrooms / corridor / barbecue / vacuum cleaner / habits / porridge

True / False

- a) A hotel in Australia has stopped two emus from entering its premises. T / F
- b) The emus were brother and sister. T / F
- c) The birds were banned because of coronavirus fears. T / F
- d) The hotel has put a rope across the front stairs to keep the emus out. T / F
- e) The emus never got as far as the hotel's upstairs bedrooms. T / F
- f) The hotel owner said the emus stole slices of toast. T / F
- g) The article said emus have very sharp teeth. T / F
- h) The hotel warned about what happens when an emu goes to the toilet. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. banned | a. careful |
| 2. native | b. pest |
| 3. popping in | c. picture |
| 4. nuisance | d. walking |
| 5. barrier | e. indigenous |
| 6. wandering | f. little |
| 7. cautious | g. barred |
| 8. bit | h. regular |
| 9. frequent | i. visiting |
| 10. imagine | j. fence |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of staying in hotels?
- c) Would you let an emu steal your breakfast?
- d) What is your favourite bird, and why?
- e) Do you think an emu would be a good pet?
- f) Do you know anyone who eats like a vacuum cleaner?
- g) What does the last line of the article mean?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the hotel owner?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. the world's second-largest | a. the emu ban |
| 2. native to | b. (brother and sister) |
| 3. The two banned emus are siblings | c. beaks |
| 4. popping in | d. nuisance to the guests |
| 5. the two birds have become a | e. Australia |
| 6. One of the reasons for | f. to climb the stairs |
| 7. the birds have learned | g. to the hotel's bedrooms |
| 8. wandering up | h. living bird by height |
| 9. They've got very sharp | i. is concerned |
| 10. a bit like a vacuum cleaner where food | j. for a few biscuits |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about emus?
- Should emus be allowed in hotels?
- Should any animals or birds be allowed in hotels?
- What do you know about the world's largest bird?
- Would you like to get close to an emu?
- What would you do if you saw an emu outside your room?
- What other birds are nuisances?
- What do you know about Australia's Outback?

Spelling

- the world's second-largest living bird by iehgth
- vatein to Australia
- The two banned emus are gilnbssi (brother and sister)
- barred the giant birds because of bad rhavoeubi
- the two birds have become a insecnau
- let yourself through the emu erbrria
- irndeagwn up to the hotel's bedrooms
- shocking guests in the rcodiror
- Travellers have to be very cuatoisu
- if you have a racuebeb
- like a uavumc cleaner
- their toiletry habits are very nueeqtfr

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. i	4. b	5. j
6. d	7. a	8. f	9. h	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Emus

You think emus are the best birds. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their birds. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): pigeons, owls or chickens.

Role B – Pigeons

You think pigeons are the best birds. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their birds. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): emus, owls or chickens.

Role C – Owls

You think owls are the best birds. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their birds. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): pigeons, emus or chickens.

Role D – Chickens

You think chickens are the best birds. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their birds. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): pigeons, owls or emus.

Speaking – Birds

Rank these with your partner. Put the best bird at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| • emu | • chicken |
| • parrot | • swan |
| • eagle | • pigeon |
| • hummingbird | • owl |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.