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How To Call The Us From Australia

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How To Call The Us From Australia: A Complete Guide for Clear and Affordable International Calls

Staying connected with friends, family, or business contacts in the United States while you are in Australia is easier than ever. However, understanding the correct dialing sequence can be confusing if you are not familiar with international call procedures. Whether you are using a landline, mobile phone, or a digital service, this comprehensive guide will walk you through every step of **how to call the US from Australia**. We will cover the essential codes, time zone considerations, cost-saving tips, and troubleshooting common issues so that your calls go through seamlessly every time.

Many people assume that international calls are expensive or complicated, but with the right knowledge and a few modern tools, you can speak to anyone in the United States for a fraction of what it used to cost. This article is designed for travelers, expatriates, students, and professionals who need a reliable method to place calls across the Pacific. Let's start with the basics of international dialing.

Understanding the International Dialing Prefix for Australia

Before you dial a US number, you must first leave the Australian telephone network. The exit code for Australia is **0011**. This tells the phone system that the number you are about to dial is an international call. Some mobile carriers and VoIP services may use a different exit code, but 0011 is the standard for landlines and most mobile networks in Australia.

If you are dialing from a mobile phone, you can often replace the exit code with a plus sign (+). Simply press and hold the **0**key until a plus appears, then enter the country code and number. This is especially useful when saving contacts or traveling, as the plus sign works from any country. However, for this guide, we will focus on the traditional method using 0011.

Step-by-Step Dialing Instructions for Calling a US Number

To call a standard US phone number from Australia, follow this exact sequence:

1. Dial the Australian exit code: 0011
2. Dial the US country code: 1
3. Dial the three-digit area code (for example, 212 for New York City)
4. Dial the seven-digit local phone number

For example, if you are calling a number in New York City (212 area code) with the local number 555-1234, you would dial: **0011 1 212 555 1234**. When dialing from a mobile phone, you can also use: **+1 212 555 1234**.

Understanding US Phone Number Formats

US phone numbers are typically written as (XXX) XXX-XXXX. The first three digits are the area code, which

designates a geographic region. Some US numbers, especially for toll-free services or mobile phones, may have different structures. Toll-free numbers often begin with 800, 888, 877, 866, 855, or 844. You still dial the same way: exit code, country code, then the full 10-digit number including the area code.

It is important to note that you do not need to drop any leading zeros. US numbers never start with a zero. If you are calling a US mobile phone, you follow the same procedure — there is no separate mobile prefix.

Dialing US Mobile Phones from Australia

US mobile numbers are indistinguishable from landline numbers in terms of dialing format. They all use 10-digit dialing (area code + local number). Therefore, **calling a US mobile from Australia** is identical to calling a landline. This is a common misconception; many Australians think they need to add an extra digit, but that is not the case. Just use the same exit code and country code, then dial the full 10-digit number.

For example, to reach a US mobile number in Los Angeles (area code 310) such as 310-555-6789, you would dial: **0011 1 310 555 6789**.

Using VoIP and Digital Calling Services to Reduce Costs

While directly dialing using a landline or mobile can be reliable, it may be expensive, especially for long conversations. Fortunately, there are several affordable alternatives to make **international calls from Australia to the US**. Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) services allow you to call over the internet, often at very low rates or even free.

Popular options include:

- Skype: You can call US landlines and mobiles using Skype Credit. Rates are typically a few cents per minute. Free Skype-to-Skype calls are also available if both parties have the app.
- WhatsApp: Although primarily a messaging app, WhatsApp offers free voice and video calls to other WhatsApp users anywhere in the world, provided you have an internet connection.
- Google Voice: This service provides a US phone number and allows you to make cheap international calls. However, it is primarily designed for US residents but can be used by Australians with a Google account.
- Viber: Similar to WhatsApp, Viber offers free calls between Viber users and low-cost calls to US landlines and mobiles.
- Zoom or FaceTime: For video calls, these platforms are excellent and free when both parties have the app installed.

When using these services, ensure you have a stable internet connection. Calls can be made from a computer, tablet, or smartphone. For business purposes, consider using a dedicated VoIP provider like RingCentral or Vonage, which offer Australian and US numbers and low per-minute rates.

Tips for Cheaper Direct Calls from Australia to the US

If you prefer to use your mobile phone's native dialer, look into international calling plans. Many Australian mobile carriers such as Telstra, Optus, and Vodafone offer add-on packs that include a certain number of international minutes to the US. These can be much more affordable than pay-as-you-go rates.

Another option is to purchase a prepaid international calling card. These cards provide a local access number and a PIN. You dial the access number, enter the PIN, then dial the US number. However, be cautious of hidden connection fees and expiration dates. Compare rates before buying.

Time Zone Considerations When Calling the US from Australia

Australia and the United States span multiple time zones, and the time difference can vary significantly. The US

has four main time zones: Eastern, Central, Mountain, and Pacific. Australia has three: Eastern Standard Time (AEST), Central Standard Time (ACST), and Western Standard Time (AWST). Additionally, both countries observe Daylight Saving Time (DST) but on different schedules. Australia's DST runs from October to April, while the US DST runs from March to November.

Here is a rough guide to time differences (ignoring DST) between major cities:

- Sydney (AEST) to New York (EST): 14 to 16 hours ahead. When it is 10 AM in Sydney, it is 8 PM the previous day in New York.
- Sydney to Los Angeles (PST): 17 to 19 hours ahead. 10 AM Sydney is 5 PM the previous day in LA.
- Perth (AWST) to Los Angeles: 15 to 17 hours ahead.

To avoid waking up someone in the middle of the night, plan your calls during overlapping business hours. A good window to call the US East Coast from Australia is between 7 AM and 10 AM Australian time, which corresponds to 5 PM to 8 PM US Eastern time the previous day. For the West Coast, calling between 9 AM and 12 PM Australian time is ideal.

Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

Even with clear instructions, errors can happen. Here are frequent pitfalls when dialing from Australia to the US:

- Omitting the exit code: Dialing 1 directly without 0011 will result in an error because your phone thinks it is a domestic call. Always start with 0011 or +.
- Including the leading zero of an area code: US area codes do not start with zero. If you see a number written as (012) 345-6789, it is incorrect. US numbers never have a leading 0 or 1 in the area code.
- Using the wrong country code: The US country code is 1. Do not dial 001 or 011. That is the exit code for other countries. 0011 is Australia's exit code followed by 1 for the US.
- Forgetting to dial the area code: Even if you are calling a number in the same US city, you must dial the full 10-digit number. US local dialing no longer works from abroad.
- Not accounting for time zones: Calling at an inconvenient hour can be frustrating. Use a world clock app to check the time.

Calling US Toll-Free Numbers from Australia

US toll-free numbers (800, 888, etc.) are not free when called from Australia. You will still be charged international rates by your Australian carrier. However, you can dial them the same way as any other US number: 0011 1 800 XXX XXXX. Some businesses provide a local Australian access number for international callers, so check their website.

Alternatively, you can use a VoIP service that offers free calling to US toll-free numbers as part of a subscription or credit package. Google Voice, for instance, allows free calls to US toll-free numbers for US-based accounts.

Using an International Calling App on Your Smartphone

Smartphones have revolutionized how we call abroad. Apps like Skype, WhatsApp, and Viber allow you to call US numbers using your data or Wi-Fi connection. This can be much cheaper than a standard mobile call. Here is how to set it up:

1. Download the app from your phone's app store.
2. Create an account (usually requires an email or phone number).
3. Purchase credits if necessary (for calls to landlines/mobiles).
4. Enter the US number in the app's dialer, including the country code (1).

For free calls, both you and the recipient need the same app installed. This is ideal for friends and family who

are also tech-savvy. For business calls to clients who may not have the app, using a low-cost VoIP provider is recommended.

Calling the US from Australian Landlines vs. Mobiles

The dialing procedure is identical for landlines and mobiles in Australia, with one exception: mobile phones can use the plus sign (+) instead of 0011. Landlines typically require the full exit code. However, some newer landline providers also support the plus sign if you dial it via a special key sequence. Check your service provider's documentation.

Costs may differ dramatically. Mobile international call rates are often higher than landline rates if you do not have a plan. Conversely, many mobile carriers offer international add-ons that can make mobile calls cheaper than calling from a home phone. Always check your plan details before making a call.

Troubleshooting Common Issues

If your call does not go through, here are some quick fixes:

- Check your exit code: Sure you dialed 0011 or +?
- Verify the US number: Does the number have 10 digits after the country code? Did you include the area code?
- Check your balance or plan: You may not have enough credit for international calls.
- Try using a different service: If direct dialing fails, use a VoIP app to test if the number is correct.
- Call during off-peak hours: Network congestion can sometimes cause dropped calls.
- Contact your carrier: Some carriers block international calls by default. You may need to enable them.

Calling US Territories and Special Numbers

The US country code (1) covers more than just the 50 states. It also includes territories such as Puerto Rico, Guam, US Virgin Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. Dialing instructions are the same: exit code + 1 + area code + local number. However, note that some of these territories may have different time zones and area codes. For example, Puerto Rico uses area codes 787 and

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