



# Military English

## Lesson: A job in the Navy - Reading

**TEACHER'S COPY**

### Overview:

This lesson involves a reading about training for a special job in the Navy, and vocabulary for navy roles.

### In this lesson, you will:

- ✓ read and find general information in a text
- ✓ read and finding specific information in a text
- ✓ learn the meaning of new words
- ✓ use new words in a conversation

### Prepare for Reading

- 1) Look at the pictures below. The sailors are doing some training for a job they have to do. What do you think this training is? **If no-one in your class is in the Navy, you might like to choose a different lesson, although it is NOT necessary. Many students will benefit by finding out about other branches of the defence force. Any ideas from students is fine at this pre-reading stage. The aim is to elicit what they can say about anything in the image.**



Here are three of the weapons – or small arms – used by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN):

**Check that students understand what weapons and small arms mean, as these terms are in the text on page 2. All 3 below are 'small arms', which mean the same as 'weapons' in this case.**



870P shotgun



EF88 rifle



Browning  
Mark II pistol

## Reading

2) Read the text as quickly as you can. **Reading at speed means that students will NOT understand everything. The task aims to get students to understand the 'gist' (only) at this point.** Try to decide what the **main idea** in the text is.

Now choose the best title for the article, a, b, c or d.

- a. International exercises help the Navy
- b. **Training in the Navy = the best 'main idea' answer here as it represents the gist of the text.**
- c. Sailors do a good job
- d. Seamanship in the Navy

3) Check your answer with a partner.

Tips for finding the main idea of a text:

- Look at the title of a text, and pictures or headings.
- Read the first and last paragraph of a text.
- Find any words or phrases that are repeated in a text.



Looking through **the scope** of his EF88 rifle, **Leading Seaman** Bill Bett and his team in *HMAS Brisbane* entered a **compartment**. Their job is to clear the room of any **threats**. This was part of the training for the **boarding party**. Boatswain's mates who specialise in many weapons often do this.

Leading Seaman Bett and his team are on Exercise TALISMAN SABRE, the largest military exercise between Australia and the United States. Talisman Sabre happens

every two years off the coast of Queensland.

As part of their training, *Brisbane's Boatswain's Mates\** (BM) did exercises in darkness, including compartment entries, room clearances and **close-combat behaviours** using the EF88, 870P shotgun and Browning Mark II pistol.

Boatswain's mates get trained in many weapons. They are experts in the use of small arms and in other work on board ships. This other work includes **rope work**, **handling small boats**, and **crewing amphibious landing craft**.

Leading Seaman Bett said the training helped his team with boarding operations and to **safeguard** the ship in Australia and when in other foreign countries' **ports**.

Seaman Melly Tennen did this training and said it was very helpful. "This is my first sea **posting**. It is my first exercise since joining the Navy a few years ago. I was very happy to practice the **maritime close-combat behaviours**," she said.

\* Boatswain's Mate can also be spelled Bosun's Mate




## Learning Military Vocabulary

4) The words in **bold** in the text are important military vocabulary that you should learn to use. Read the military words on the left and their definitions on the right.

→ Find the two definitions that are **NOT** correct. **Highlighted in green below.**

→ What should they be? Look at the box underneath. Choose the correct meaning for the two words.

Students do not have to match the words to the definitions, like in other lessons. All they need to do is read the definitions for each word and find which two ones are not correct, then select the correct ones, x or z in the box at the bottom of the page.

his team entered a <b>compartment</b> (of a ship)	→	a room on board a ship to make something / a person feel safe; not in danger	
a <b>scope</b> of a rifle (n)	→	the part of the rifle that you look through to find your target	
a <b>threat</b> (n) to the team	→	a danger; something that might cause danger	
training for a <b>boarding party</b> (n)	→	<b>when people get together to celebrate the day you were born</b>	
a <b>boatswain's mate (BM)</b>	→	a job on board a ship	
a <b>leading Seaman</b>	→	a rank in the Navy (= to a Corporal in the Army)	
<b>close-combat behaviours</b> (n)	→	what you need to do when fighting the enemy in a small space	
including <b>rope work</b> (n)	→		
including <b>handling</b> small boats (n)	→	<b>driving</b> small boats	
including <b>crewing</b> (n) amphibious landing craft	→	working on board a boat	
<b>amphibious landing craft</b> (n)	→	types of boats that can go on land AND on water	
to <b>safeguard</b> (v) the ship	→	to make something / a person feel safe; not in danger	
a foreign country's <b>port</b>	→	the part of a city or town that has water and where a boat can stay	
<b>maritime</b> (adj) close-combat behaviours	→	connected with the sea / the oceans	
my first sea <b>posting</b> (n)	→	<b>when you put a letter in an envelope and send it to someone</b>	

x. the length of time you stay in a job in the military = **a posting**

z. a group of seamen that work together to get on board another ship = **a boarding party**

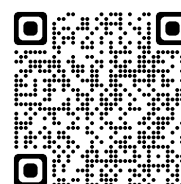
- 5) Now practice saying the words with your teacher.  
 Play the recording. Make sure students repeat each time after the words are said. Pause the recording and correct any students whose pronunciation is inaccurate. Make sure you model or pick out from the recording the stressed syllables for multi-syllable words e.g. beHAViours, amPHIbious (PH = /f/)
- 6) Now test your partner with some of the words from exercise 4.  
 Choose one of the words. Do NOT say the word. Instead read the meaning. Your partner must **not** look at his/her sheet, but try to remember the correct word.  
 Monitor for correct vocabulary and pronunciation. Ask students whose pronunciation is inaccurate to repeat the words.
- 7) Are there any other words in the reading that you would like to learn? Write them here, and check with a good dictionary after class.  
 Students write down words individually. Go around the classroom and provide any help they may need. Alternatively, this could be for homework.
- 8) Now read again and finish the sentences about the reading, using a word from the reading. The first one is done for you.
- Training in the Navy helps sailors practise using weapons.
  - Australia and the United States practice war-games in Exercise (usually uses a capital letter because this is part of a 'name')\_ TALISMAN SABRE.
  - The training for Boatswain's Mate (BM) is usually on board a ship.
  - As a BM, a seaman might work with rope, and pistols as well as drive (small) boats.
  - The BM also works to make sure the ship is safe, when the RAN sails to another country.
  - Seaman (the space before her name identifies this as a 'rank' needed here) Melly enjoyed the training.

## Practice

- 9) Discuss these questions with a partner. Try to use some of the words from activity 4. If possible, try to help students to do this. Supply them with any words from the lesson as you monitor and listen to the students.
- How is the work in the Navy different from a job in the Army?
  - Do you want to be in the Navy, Army or Air Force (rather than your service)? Why?
  - In many militaries, personnel have 'a posting' for two or three years in one job and then they move to another 'posting' – is this the same in your military?  
 If yes, do you like changing jobs like this?  
 If not, do you think it's a good idea to move like this every two years?

- Watch this video about someone who works as a Boatswain's Mate:  
 Type on YouTube [Kerrin Humphrey - Boatswain's mate, Royal Australian Navy](#) or scan the QR code:

Yell 'STOP' when you see / hear in the video a word from this lesson.



These words, many and more of which are in this lesson, are said in the first 8 minutes. The 8 minutes is probably enough of the video for ss to watch.

seaman officer  
bridge  
boatswain's mate  
rope  
small arms  
pistol  
machine gun  
non-commissioned ranks  
discipline  
weapons training  
marching  
humanitarian vessel  
go to sea

troops  
messes  
deployed  
Op Quick Step  
BlackHawks  
the deck  
pipe  
emergency stations  
warship  
Buffer

- This lesson links with: Vocabulary Builder – Parts of a Ship  
Vocabulary Builder – Parts of a Rifle

#### **Exercise 5 Vocabulary Recording Transcript.**

*Exercise 5: Now let's practice saying the words. Listen and repeat:*

*compartment*

*scope*

*threat*

*boarding party*

*boatswain's mate (bosun's mate)*

*leading seaman*

*close combat behaviours*

*rope*

*handling*

*crewing*

*amphibious landing craft*

*safeguard*

*port*

*maritime*

*posting*

© Commonwealth of Australia 2023

This work is copyright. Apart from any use as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968 (Cth), no part may be reproduced by any process without prior written permission from the Department of Defence.