



Military English

Lesson: Disaster Relief - Listening

TEACHER'S COPY

Overview:

This lesson practises listening in the context of disaster relief operations and related vocabulary of natural disasters.

In this lesson, you will practise:

- ✓ listening for specific information
- ✓ learning the meaning of new words
- ✓ using new words in context

It's best if VB – Natural Disasters is taught **before** this lesson as many of the vocabulary items in the VB worksheet will appear in this lesson.

Prepare for Listening

1) Look at the pictures and discuss the questions with a partner. Use this stage to engage students in the topic.

Students should use any English they have to answer the questions.

- What are people in the pictures doing?
- What can military personnel do when a natural disaster happens?

personnel (n) → people who work for the military. Example: My unit has about 35 personnel. Short form: pers



? a 'natural disaster' is something **good / bad / very bad**.

Students work in pairs or individually and choose the correct answer. This is a small concept checking activity before students progress onto the next stage of the lesson. This exercise checks that students understand the meaning of 'natural disaster' as a 'very bad' natural event that causes a lot of loss and damage, and may kill many people.

Listening

2) Listen to the news report. Which natural disasters does the news reporter talk about?

Make sure students **don't** turn to the next page before this listening exercise is checked. Students might guess the answer for this (rather than listen) if they read exercise 3. Even if VB - Natural Disasters has been taught prior, model pronunciation of the words in the box so ss know what to listen for. The meaning of earthquake and bushfire will be covered in exercise 4.

tsunami cyclone flood bushfire earthquake

If ss mark 'tsunami', tell them that the recording mentioned a tsunami warning, which has a different meaning to tsunami. Ask these CCQs to check they understand the meaning of tsunami warning: 1. Is tsunami warning the same as tsunami? (N); 2. If I give a tsunami warning, am I sure there is a tsunami coming? (Not sure); 3. Does a tsunami warning give time for people to prepare for a tsunami? (Y); 4. Can the government give a tsunami warning but no tsunami comes? (Y)

3) Listen to the news again. Circle the correct answers. This is a listening for specific information task. There is a transcript for teachers – please use this to help with this exercise, especially if students need you to replay the audio. You could then choose to replay just the sections around where the answers are. Model the pronunciation (no drilling is needed) of all the words in the answers, so ss know what to listen for. When you model 'C-130 Hercules', ask them: "Does your country use the Hercules?". Then ask them to read the blue text box to find the answers. Ask if anyone has been on a Hercules.




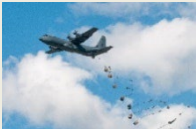
- a. What time did the earthquake happen?
12 a.m. // 3 a.m. // 5 a.m.
- b. Which aircraft was sent to help people after the earthquake?
C-130 Hercules // C-17A Globemaster // CH-47 Chinook
- c. How many helicopters were sent to the bushfire area?
2 // 3 // 5
- d. In which state did the bushfire happen?
Tasmania // Victoria // Queensland

The C-130 Hercules is a military transport aircraft. Many countries use it in their Defence Forces, including Australia, Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand.



Learning Military Vocabulary

4) The words in **bold** in the text are important military vocabulary that you should learn to use. Match the military words on the left to their definitions on the right. Look at the example. As you check the ans, ask the CQs on the next page for each vocab item below.

deploy (v)	f	a. a fire in the forest that can spread quickly and be difficult to control
to be on standby	g	b. to help someone to do something
has set up a disaster relief operation (n)	e	c. shaking of the ground 
a large earthquake (n)	c	d. to move people from a place because it is not safe
a tsunami warning (n)	i	e. a job the military does to give food or water to the people in a disaster
to airlift survivors (v)	j	f. to send soldiers or weapons to a place for military action
the strong winds (n)	h	g. to be ready and able to go to work suddenly
more news from the bushfire (n)	a	h. 
deliver disaster relief supplies (n)	l	i. an alarm that tells people when a tsunami might happen
to evacuate about 500 survivors (v)	d	j. when the military uses aircraft to take people, soldiers, animals or things to and from a place; the plane lands. 
the survivors (n)	m	k. a job the military does using aircraft to drop things into a place; the plane doesn't land. 
to assist the local population (v)	b	l. things that people receive to help them during natural disasters, for example, food, first aid kit, water, medicine
an airdrop operation (n)	k	m. a person who was in a very dangerous situation, but didn't die.

To consolidate the vocab, ask CCQs to check ss have understood meaning of new words:

- **deploy**: Can soldiers be deployed to fight in a war? (Y); Can a military deploy soldiers only or equipment as well? (equipment as well); If a soldier is deployed, do they stay on their base or do they go to another place? (another place); What other operations can soldiers be deployed to? (ans will vary e.g. peacekeeping operations with the UN, military exercises; elicit disaster relief); What's the past of deploy? (deployed). Quickly model and drill 'deployed'.
- **standby**: if a soldier is on standby, are they ready to work if needed? (y); Can a soldier on standby go on holiday? (N, they need to be nearby so they can quickly do what their boss ask them to do).
- disaster relief operation – What happens in disaster relief? (helps people after a natural disaster). Who works in a disaster relief operation? (military personnel, government employees and organisations like the UN).
- **earthquake**: Does the ground shake during an earthquake? (Y); Can an earthquake happen on the bottom of the ocean? (Y); Can an earthquake kill a lot of people? (Y).
- **tsunami warning**: Is a tsunami related to fire or water? (water); What does a tsunami warning usually sounds like? (a siren); Where else can you get a tsunami warning? (TV, radio, internet, mobile).
- **airlift**: Is an airlift on land, air or water? (water); Does an air lift use trucks? (N) ships? (N) airplanes? (Y) helicopters? (Y); What's inside an airplane (or helicopter) during an airlift? (people, things); What do you think is inside an airplane during a disaster relief airlift? (medicines, food, water, tents, torches, and all other things needed in this operation)
- **bushfire**: Does a bushfire happen in the city? (N); Can a bushfire kill people sometimes? (Y); Can a bushfire destroy houses? (Y)
- disaster relief supplies – are disaster relief supplies basic things that people need to survive? (Y); who sends disaster relief supplies to people when there is a natural disaster? (usually the government (military), but sometimes other organisations like the UN); How are disaster relief supplies sent to people in need? (airlift, by truck, by boat, etc).
- **evacuate**: About two months ago we needed to evacuate the buildings at DITC, why do you think? (there was a fire drill [training for when there is a real fire]). If you live by the sea and you hear a tsunami warning, what do you do? (evacuate); When you evacuate, do you do it slowly or quickly? (quickly).
- **survivor**: If you're a survivor, are you alive or dead? (alive); If I cut myself with a kitchen knife and don't die, am I a survivor? (no because cutting yourself with a knife in the kitchen is not a dangerous situation that might kill you).
- **assist**: what is another word for assist? (help); Does help and assist have a similar meaning? (Y).
- **airdrop**: Can you drop people in an airdrop or only things? (only things); Can the plane land in an airdrop? (N); Why don't the things break when the airplane drops them? (they land slowly because of a parachute).

5) Now let's practise saying the words in this worksheet.

The main stressed syllable is underlined in the words on the vocabulary chart for pronunciation. Ensure that this syllable is pronounced a little more loudly than other syllables in the word.

- 6) Circle the correct **answer** to complete sentences. You could use the concept checking questions below to help you check that all students have chosen answers with the correct meaning.
- People living near the beach have to **assist** // **evacuate** (Are they leaving or staying in the area? A: Leaving) when they receive a **bushfire** // **tsunami warning** (Is this fire or water based natural disaster? A: Water) from the government.
 - Disaster relief supplies** (What might be in these supplies? A: Medicines) // **Disaster relief operations** will be **evacuated** // **airdropped** (Do the supplies come via plane or boat? A: Plane) to people in the villages because roads and the airport are completely underwater.
 - The government will **airlift** // **assist** (Will the government help? A: Yes) the **disaster relief supplies** // **survivors** (Are these people alive or dead? A: Alive) of the bushfire in repairing their houses.
 - The government put the army **assist** // **on standby** (Can they go on holiday when they are 'on standby'? A: No – they have to be ready to go somewhere very quickly). This is to make sure that they are ready to **deploy** (If you are deployed, will you move somewhere else or stay at base? A: Move.) // **evacuate** to Africa.

Practice

7) Discuss these questions with a partner:

- a. What natural disasters usually happen in your country and how often?
- b. Do you know of any natural disasters that happened recently? Talk about:
 - where and when it happened
 - how the military assisted people during the disaster
 - number of survivors

Tell students to use as many words they've learned today as possible. For FB, ask them which words they used in their discussion and write them on the WB.

- This lesson links with → Vocabulary Builder – Natural disasters; Lesson – Humanitarian Aid.
- Watch this video about a disaster relief training exercise by the Australian Defence Force.
Type on [YouTube Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief training activity](#) or scan the QR code.



Transcript

(Intro music)

Good morning, here is the breaking news.

A large earthquake in the sea off Bimini Island happened at 3a.m. this morning. A tsunami warning for the area is in effect for the next 12 hours. The Australian government has set up a disaster relief operation to assist the local population. C-130 Hercules aircraft from the Royal Australian Air Force will be deployed tomorrow to deliver disaster relief supplies. As there is no airport on the small island, this will be an airdrop operation. (Fade out as the following is said) The second stage of the operations will see HMAS Canberra being deployed to further assist...

...and more news from the bushfire burning in north-eastern Victoria since yesterday. The Australian Defence Force have set up an operation to evacuate about 500 survivors. It will deploy five Blackhawk helicopters to airlift survivors to a Navy ship which is about 5km off the coast of the town of East Port. Doctors and nurses are on standby on the ship. This is one of the worst-ever bushfires in the state of Victoria. The strong winds will continue for at least 24 hours. (Fade out as the following is said) And now let's take a look at the weather for Eastern Australia for this weekend, Queensland is going to see a fair bit of rain...

Exercise 5 Vocabulary Recording Transcript.

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

deploy

on standby

disaster relief operation

earthquake

tsunami warning

airlift

strong winds

bushfire

disaster relief supplies

evacuate

survivor

assist

airdrop

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