



# Military English

Lesson: Leadership - Reading

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## Overview:

This lesson looks at the topic of 'leadership' and includes vocabulary associated with this topic.

## In this lesson, you will:

- ✓ read and find general information in a text
- ✓ identify the main idea in a text
- ✓ learn the meaning of new words
- ✓ use new words in a conversation

## Prepare for Reading

1) Look at the photos below and discuss these questions with a partner.

This task activates students' prior knowledge and engages them with the topic. Use this activity to encourage students to start thinking about the topic. It is important that students use whatever English they have at this stage.

- a. Leaders in the military are important people. Why? Possible answers / information: They make important decisions; they lead people into difficult situations; they need to build trust with their soldiers; they have a lot of things to think about e.g. their team, the weapons, problems that could happen, the enemy, how best to use all the equipment or which equipment is best to use, etc.
- b. What is happening in the pictures? What are the leaders doing? Possible answers: The leaders are planning / briefing their soldiers, explaining how to do something / how to organise a battle/ talking about which equipment can be used, and how (i.e. tactics), etc.



## Reading

2) Read the text carefully. Try to decide what the **main idea** in the text is.

Now choose the main idea a, b, or c for the article. **Tell students they don't have to know the meaning of all the words in the text in order to successfully select the main idea. If they use the techniques in the blue box below, it will help them. Talk through this with them before they read.**

Do not use a dictionary yet. You are going to learn the meaning of the words in **bold** in the next exercise.

- a. A leader has to be good at planning battles.
- b. A leader has to be good at motivating\* his soldiers.
- c. **A leader has to be good at inspiring\* his/her soldiers, planning battles, and managing supplies.**

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 the text.

\* to motivate / to inspire = to make someone want to do something = CCQ: If your leader motivates or inspires you, is this an order? (N) If he/she motivates or inspires you, do you want to do it? (Yes) Do you want to do it because the leader said you **MUST** do it? (No) Did the leader say something to make you want to do it? (Yes). Check that students know the meaning of these two words before they do the task.

### Military Leadership



Military leadership is an important part of a country's defence. It is when an officer leads a group of soldiers and helps them work together to complete important **missions**. Military leaders come from different **branches** of the military, like the army, navy, or air force. They have to be very good at **inspiring** their **subordinates**, **planning** attacks, and **managing** their **supplies**.

A good military leader is someone who is **brave** and **disciplined**. They inspire everyone in their **unit** to fight harder. They might lead a small unit, like a **platoon**, or a big unit, like a **brigade**. They know that **teamwork** is important.

One of the most important things a military leader does is make plans in places like **battlefields**. In these places, they have to think quickly and make choices that are best for their team. Leaders might need to **sacrifice** some of their goals to achieve **victory**.

Military leaders have to **manage** their unit's **supplies** of **equipment** and **resources**. These have to be used the right way, so the army can win the battle.

Military leadership is all about **inspiring** others, **planning** missions, and **managing** supplies. You have to take care of many things, but it is also a great **honour** to serve your country as a military leader.

**Direct students to this vocabulary box. These 4 words are in the text (highlighted in green) and knowing their meaning will help them with comprehension. Ask them to do this before task 3 otherwise there will be too many vocabulary items to learn.**

**Vocabulary. Learn the meaning of the words highlighted in the text.**

**Plan** (v): to think about a way to do something




**Inspire** (v): to encourage other people to do something

**Manage** (v): to control something that is difficult to control

**Supplies** (n): equipment, weapons, trucks, tanks, food, oil, etc.

## Learning Military Vocabulary

- 3) The words in **bold** in the text are common general and military vocabulary that you should learn to use. Read the text again and match the words on the left to their definitions on the right. Look at the example.

complete important <b>missions</b> (n)	<b>f</b>	a. people working together to finish something
military leaders come from different <b>branches</b> (n)	<b>k</b>	b. a place where soldiers are fighting 
lead <b>subordinates</b> (n)	<b>j</b>	c. tanks, trucks, weapons, planes, ships, etc. 
<b>brave</b> soldiers (adj)	<b>g</b>	d. oil, gas, food, water, etc.
someone who is <b>disciplined</b> (adj) <i>the noun form discipline is more common</i>	<b>i</b>	e. a group of 36-40 soldiers
military <b>unit</b> (n)	<b>o</b>	<b>f. special military tasks</b>
<b>platoon</b> (n)	<b>e</b>	g. not afraid in a dangerous situation
<b>brigade</b> (n)	<b>m</b>	h. feeling of pride, to feel proud 
<b>teamwork</b> is important (n)	<b>a</b>	i. able to control yourself in difficult situations
a dangerous <b>battlefield</b> (n)	<b>b</b>	j. someone with lower rank (for example, a captain has a lower rank than a major)
might need to <b>sacrifice</b> (v)	<b>l</b>	k. a part of the armed forces (e.g. army, navy, air force)
to achieve <b>victory</b> (n)	<b>n</b>	l. to give away something very important to you
supplies of <b>equipment</b> (n)	<b>c</b>	m. a group of 2500-5000 soldiers
supplies of <b>resources</b> (n)	<b>d</b>	n. when you win a game or win a war
it is an <b>honour</b> to serve your country (n)	<b>h</b>	o. a group of people in the military (e.g. platoon, battalion)

Example: *missions* (n) = f. special military tasks

- 4) Now let's practise saying the words from exercise 3. Listen and repeat. **Play each word once or twice. Get all students to repeat, then select individual students. Correct inaccurate pronunciation. 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. You can help students with their pronunciation by clapping your hands for the main stressed syllable.**

- 5) Now try to use some of the words from exercise 3 correctly in the sentences below.
- Private Johnson is not afraid of anything. He is very **brave**.
  - Corporal Faro is in trouble again. He cannot control himself. He has no **discipline**.
  - Major Smith is very popular with his **subordinates**. They will always follow him into battle.
  - General Jones has planned a new **mission**. It will be an important battle.
  - Captain Wang serves in the **branch** of the Army, not the Navy.
  - Lieutenant Wilson is a **platoon** leader. He leads a group of 36 soldiers.

## Practice

- 6) Discuss these questions with a partner:
- What makes a good leader? Choose three words from this lesson to describe a good leader. (e.g. a good leader is brave). Explain why to your partner. **If it helps the students, they can refer to examples, such as their own leaders or famous leaders in history.**
  - Would you be a good leader? Why?

- Watch this video about leadership training in the Australian Defence Force. Type on YouTube [ADFA Leadership Training](#) or scan the QR code.

The video can be used as an extension activity at the end of the lesson. You may assign this for homework, too. Students watch the video (either on their devices or on a screen in the classroom) and answer these questions:



- What activities do students learn in the Leadership Training?

Possible answers: learn about themselves, moral courage, physical courage\*

\*nb. courage (n) /kʌrɪdʒ/= bravery (n) / brave (adj)= courageous (adj) /kəreɪdʒəs/

- What types of activities do students do in the training?

Possible answers: physical and mental courage based activities

## Exercise 4 Vocabulary Recording Transcript.

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

*missions*

*unit*

*sacrifice*

*branches*

*platoon*

*victory*

*subordinates*

*brigade*

*equipment*

*brave*

*teamwork*

*resources*

*disciplined*

*battlefield*

*honour*