



# Military English

Lesson: Living on a Military Base – Listening

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**Overview:**

This lesson presents vocabulary related to basic facilities in an Australian military base.

**In this lesson, you will:**

- ✓ listen and find specific information in a text
- ✓ listen for detail
- ✓ learn the meaning of new words
- ✓ use new words in a conversation

## Prepare for Listening

1) Look at the pictures below and answer the questions with your partner. **Enlarge these and put them on the whiteboard or on the walls of the classroom. Ask students to stand up and look at the images discussing the question in pairs.**

a. Are there places like this in your unit? How often do you use them?

You can ask students if they know what the places in the pictures are called. This will activate their prior knowledge and clarify the purpose of the places. Suggested name of places are provided under each picture.



(indoor) swimming pool



gym / gym equipment /  
treadmill / bicycle



mess / cafeteria



café / coffee shop / canteen



medical centre / clinic / hospital



lounge / sitting room /  
common room

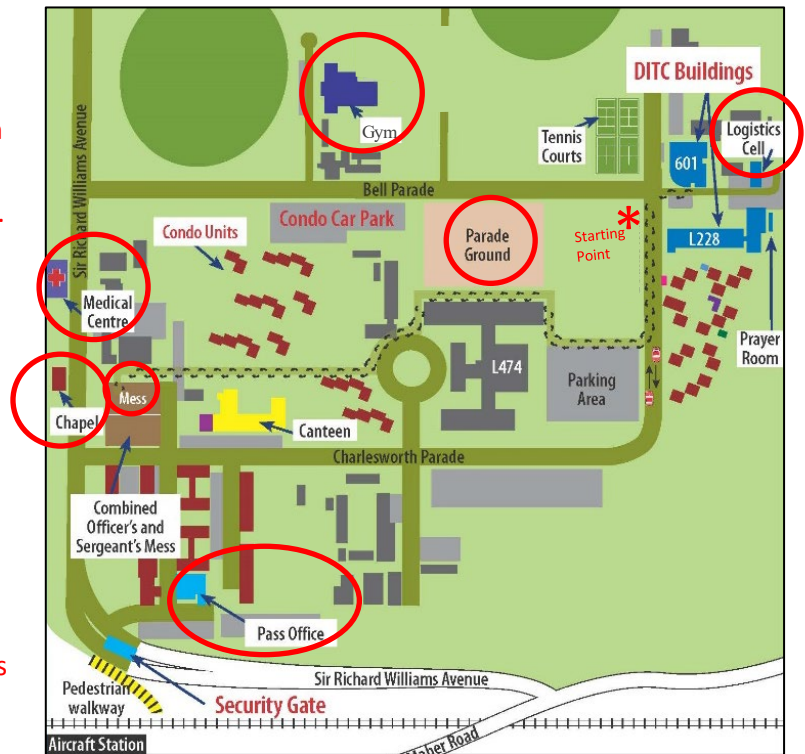
? **facilitie**s = buildings, equipment or services; for example, all the places in the pictures on this page.

The aim for this quick task is to introduce the word *facilities*. This word will appear in the listening text. You can ask them to work individually or in pairs to fill out the missing letters. Alternatively, play hangman with the whole class.

## Listening

2) Listen to an International Seconded Officer (a commissioned officer who is temporarily posted overseas) giving a base tour and circle the places on the map below that you hear them visit.

Tell students the number of places mentioned in the audio, for example, '...and circle the **seven** places on the map below that you hear them visit'. Tell them where the starting point is – that's where the tour starts from. Transcript on page 6. In the text, the acronym RAAF appears. It stands for Royal Australian Air Force. This can be pronounced two ways; as it appears in the text /ræf/, or saying the actual letters i.e. ("R, double A, F").




Elicit feedback on the places that students circled.

3) Listen again and complete the table below.

Now, ask students to read information in the blue box below before playing the audio again. Play audio twice for this task, if needed to help students with the answers (red items below) for a. – f.

Extension activity - practise military time. Write random times on the board e.g. 3:00pm; 4:30pm; 10:00am. Ask students how to say them in the military. Answer - 3:00pm is fifteen hundred (hours); 4:30pm is sixteen thirty; 10:00am is ten hundred (hours). Or, teach VB: *Military Time* BEFORE this lesson.



places	purpose (what they're used for)	opening time
Parade Ground	a. to have graduations, and for the Air Force band to practise marching and playing	–
gym	to exercise, use weightlifting equipment, play basketball, and swim	b. 0800-1645
Medical Centre	c. to see a doctor (when sick)	–
d. chapel	to have some peaceful time and pray	–
Mess	e. to have meals	–
Pass Office	f. to get Security Pass for base personnel and visitors	–
Logcell	g. to get pens and notebooks, pencils and paper and to borrow jackets or sports equipment	–



Military time is read differently. For example:  
 0100 (zero, one hundred) is 1am;  
 0730 (zero, seven-thirty) is 7:30am;  
 1300 (thirteen-hundred) is 1pm.

## Learning Military Vocabulary

4) The words in **bold** are important military words that you should learn. Match the military words on the left to their definitions on the right. Look at the example first.

has a <b>parade ground</b> (n)	<b>e</b>	a. Physical Training Instructor - a person who is responsible for physical training (PT) and fitness tests for military personnel	
I'm now going to <b>escort</b> (v) you	<b>f</b>	b. a place where guards give you a security pass to use on base	
the base <b>gym</b> (n)	<b>l</b>	c. a place where personnel of any religion can go for prayer	
at the <b>Pass Office</b> (n)	<b>b</b>	d. the times when military personnel can walk in to see the doctor (without an appointment)	
speak to the <b>PTI</b> (n)	<b>a</b>	e. an area where soldiers practise marching and have parades	
go to <b>Sick Parade</b> (n)	<b>d</b>	f. to go with someone to guard them or to show them the way	
This building is the <b>Logistics Cell</b> /Logcell (n)	<b>m</b>	g. where military personnel have their meals	
the <b>Chaplain</b> (n) <b>NB / 'tʃæplən /</b>	<b>h</b>	h. a military officer who can be a priest, imam or other spiritual leader; they help soldiers when they need it	
go to the <b>mess</b> (n)	<b>g</b>	i. a room, where people sit, talk and relax	
at the <b>Medical Centre</b> (n)	<b>j</b>	j. where military personnel on base go when they're not feeling well	
wear <b>security pass</b> (n)	<b>k</b>	<b>k. an official document that shows that you have the right to enter or leave a place</b>	
the <b>chapel</b> is open (n)	<b>c</b>	l. where you can exercise or play sport	
the <b>common room</b> (n)	<b>i</b>	m. a facility where personnel can get everything they need, for example, equipment and things to use in the office	

*Example: wear **security pass** (n) = k. an official document that shows that you have the right to enter or leave a place*

5) Now let's practise saying the words above. Listen and repeat.

As you play the recording, drill pronunciation with class/individuals. Then write vocabulary on the board. Mark the word stress (underlined in the words above) to help students with pronunciation.

6) Complete sentences below with words from Exercise 4.

Students work individually to complete the task then compare answers with their partner or group members.  
Elicit answers from random class members.

- a. After class, students spend their time chatting and relaxing in the common room.
- b. If you feel sick and need a doctor, you need to go to sick parade from 0730-0900 at the Medical Centre.
- c. You must wear your security pass at all times when on base.
- d. If you run out of paper or if something breaks in your room, please contact Logistics Cell.
- e. After collecting your security pass from the Pass Office, please escort the visitors to the common room for drinks.

## Practice

7) There is a visitor to your base/unit. Your job is to show them around. Choose four places (facilities) to take them to, and think about:

- what order you will show them
- what the name of the place is
- what it is used for
- when it is open

In this activity, give students time to prepare on their own. The students should first choose four places. Monitor and help as needed.

If you have a map of your base / unit, it would be useful to hand this out to students. Or, you could ask students to draw a simple one as part of the preparation.

LANGUAGE BOX	<p>Ordering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The first place on the tour is...</li><li>• The next place is...</li><li>• After that, I'll show you...</li><li>• Third, we'll go to...</li><li>• The last place is...</li></ul> <p>Purpose of each facility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It's used for...</li><li>• This is (the place) where you...</li><li>• You can...</li></ul> <p>Telling time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It's open <i>every day // seven days a week // from 0700-1630.</i></li></ul>
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Go through expressions in the Language Box with the class. Make sure they understand that:

- Ordering – students will use this to sequence the places visited.
- Purpose of each facility – students use these expressions to say what the facilities are used for.
- Telling time – students use these expressions to mention the opening times of the base facilities.

You may also wish to give students a copy of the transcript of the listening to go over identifying when the speaker does these things in his monologue.

Play the Language Box audio and drill with class/individuals.

Encourage students to use these expressions during the task.

Students could work in pairs, with one person being the 'visitor' and the other being the escort.

Monitor the students while they on task.

Make some notes as you monitor of some good expressions the students use, or some words / grammar that would be useful to correct with the whole class.

Extension: ask students to record themselves on their phone saying this (or of them reading the transcript) and send it to you for feedback on their pronunciation. Record corrected pronunciation for them to listen to and practise.

## Audio transcript

Good afternoon sir, ma'am, and welcome to the base. I'm Lieutenant Parida, the Thai Seconded Officer. I am going to take you on a tour to show you some important places around the base. We'll be walking for about 25 minutes. Has everybody got a map of the base? [short pause, background chatter] ...Yes? Great.

We're here, on the corner of Bell Parade and Bourke Road. Can everyone see this on the map? [2-4 sec pause, background chatter] I'm now going to **escort** you to the first place on the tour, the **Parade Ground**. Let's go. [sound of background chatter, people walking. Fade out]

So here it is, the Parade Ground. Here at RAAF Base Williams, we use it for graduation parades for the Pre-Officer Prep course. The Air Force Band also use it to practise marching and playing. Ok, let's go now to one of my favourite places on base, the **gym**.

This is the base Gym. It's open every day from 0800 to 1645, but you can use a code to enter outside these hours. Please speak to the **PTI** to get the code. The Gym is great, it has things like weightlifting equipment, an indoor basketball court and a swimming pool.

[1-2 sec pause] Now let's move to the next facility, the **Medical Centre**. [ 1-2 sec pause]

[Fade in. Some walking and talking background noise] The Medical Centre. This is where you come if you need to see a doctor. **Sick Parade** is here from 0730 to 0900 each day. Ok everybody, let's keep moving, we've got a few more places to visit. [sound of background chatter, people walking. Fade out]

Welcome to the **Chapel**. This place is open to everyone, of any religion. This is the place to come for prayers or just to have some peaceful time. It's open 7 days a week. The officer in charge here is the **Chaplain**. The Chaplain is happy to talk to anyone who needs it.

[1-2 sec pause] Ok, now I want to show you that building across the road. Come with me.

[sound of background chatter, people walking. Fade out] Is everyone here? [1 sec pause] Ok. This facility behind me is the **Mess**. This is where all base personnel and you will come for your meals. The Mess serves breakfast, lunch and dinner every day of the week. But be careful with the opening times, or you may end up missing a meal! Let's head to the next place, [fade out] which is about 300 metres down this road.

[1-2 sec pause] This is the **Pass Office**. Here you'll get your **Security Pass**. Remember, you must wear your pass around your neck at all times when on base! Also, anyone visiting the base has to come to the Pass Office first. Now let's go to the last place on the tour. [fade out] Let's head back to where we started the tour.

This building is the **Logistics Cell** – or **Logcell**. This is an important place. It's where you can get things like pens and notebooks, pencils and paper. You can also borrow warm jackets and sports equipment. [fade out] You can also report any issues in your accommodation blocks here.

And this is the end of the tour. Now you know where the important facilities are and how to use them. Does anyone have any questions? [pause, chatter]

No? Ok. Thank you, all. You have 20 minutes before class starts, so go to the **common room** to get something to eat. [fade out] Return to your classroom at 1005 please.

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