



Military English

Lesson: Marksmanship Principles - Reading

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Overview:

This lesson discusses vocabulary related to marksmanship principles and basic weapons training rules, in an army soldier's journal.

In this lesson you will practise:

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

Prepare for Reading

- 1) Look at the pictures and discuss the following questions in pairs or small groups. Use this to start the lesson and to elicit, if possible, words connected to the theme in this lesson:
 - a. What is the person in the picture doing? e.g. shooting at a target, holding a rifle, practising shooting
 - b. What knowledge/skills do you need to be a good shooter? e.g. being able to aim, weapon control, breathing, knowing distance to target, ammunition (= bullet) types, safety, body positions, weapon cleaning, etc.
- ? Marksmanship means the ability to shoot carefully / quietly / accurately



Here are some examples of **weapons** used by the Australian Defence Force (ADF):



EF88 assault rifle



Browning Mark III pistol

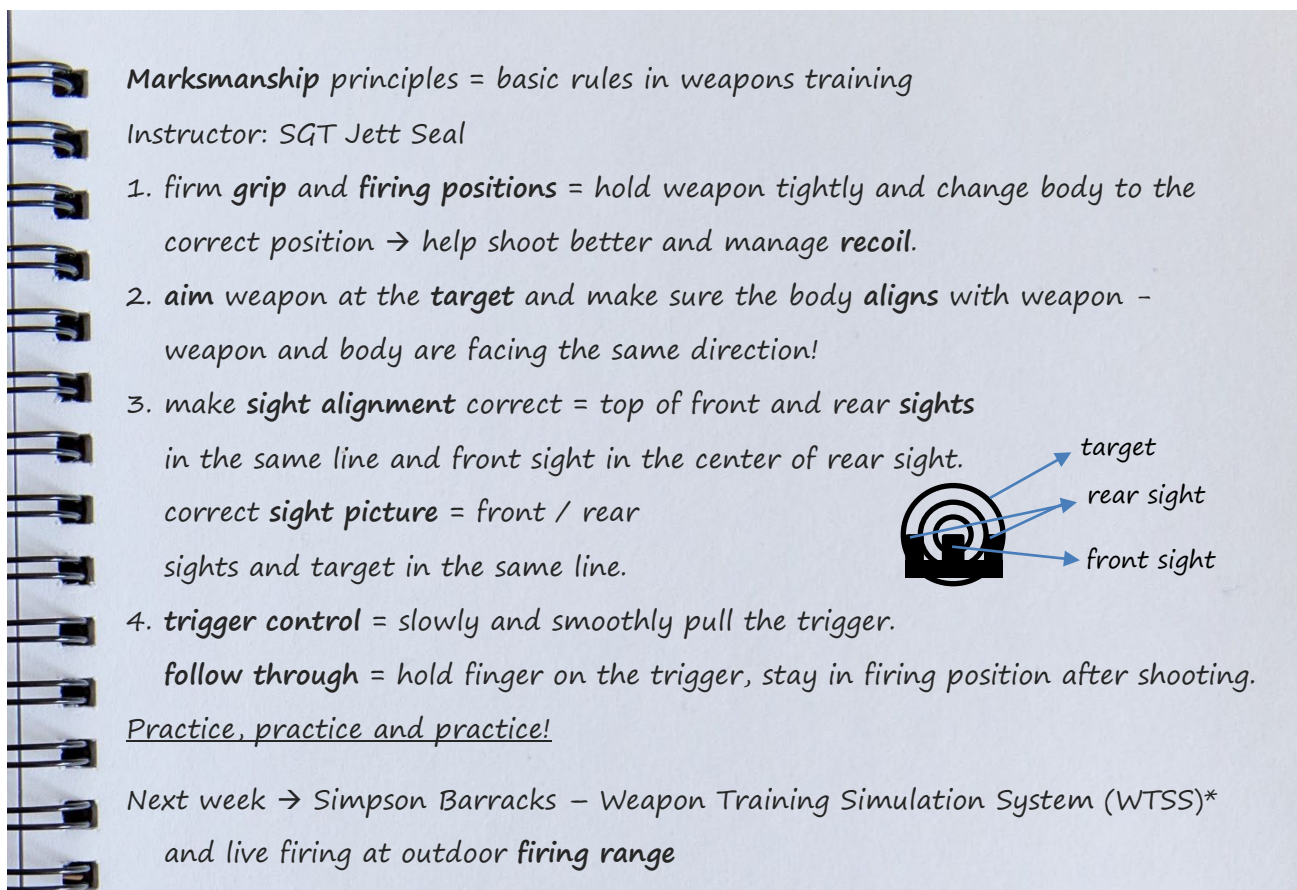


870P shotgun

Reading

2) Below are a soldier's notes about what he learned on the first day of weapons training. Quickly read the text. What rules is he writing about? Circle the correct answer.

how to hold a rifle // **how to shoot a rifle** // how to clean a rifle



Marksmanship principles = basic rules in weapons training

Instructor: SGT Jett Seal


1. firm **grip** and **firing positions** = hold weapon tightly and change body to the correct position → help shoot better and manage **recoil**.
2. **aim** weapon at the **target** and make sure the body **aligns** with weapon - weapon and body are facing the same direction!
3. make **sight alignment** correct = top of front and rear sights in the same line and front sight in the center of rear sight.
correct sight picture = front / rear sights and target in the same line.
4. **trigger control** = slowly and smoothly pull the trigger.
follow through = hold finger on the trigger, stay in firing position after shooting.

Practice, practice and practice!

Next week → Simpson Barracks – Weapon Training Simulation System (WTSS)*
and live firing at outdoor firing range

3) Read the journal again. Number the rules in the correct order.

- 4 keep finger on the trigger after shooting, without firing
- 2 point weapon at the target
- 1 hold weapon firmly and correctly sit or stand to fire
- 3 make sure the target, front, and rear sights, are in the same line



* Weapon Training Simulation System (WTSS) is an indoor training facility. The ADF has many of these facilities for personnel to train in marksmanship and other combat behaviours. It uses interactive video.

Learning military vocabulary

4) Look at the example below. The words in bold text are important military vocabulary you should learn to use. Match the military words on the left with their definitions on the right.

marksmanship principles (n)	d	a. to make sure your body and weapon are in the same line as the target
a firm grip (n)	f	b. when a weapon's sights and the target are in the same line
in different firing positions (n)	c	c. different ways a shooter can fire their weapon:  kneeling  standing  sitting  prone
manage recoil (n)	i	d. the ability to shoot well/accurately
aim weapon at the target (v)	h	e. an object that you want to shoot at 
aim at the target (n)	e	f. the way you hold a weapon with your hands
align weapon and body (v)	a	g. a place where you go shooting 
front and rear sights (n) adjust	m	h. to point a weapon at an object that you want to shoot
sight alignment (n)	b	i. to be able to smoothly pull the trigger while keeping control over the weapon  trigger
clear sight picture (n)	k	j. to continue to hold the trigger / aim at the target after firing
maintain trigger control (n)	i	k. what you see when the sights are in the same line as the target  target rear sight front sight
follow through (v) after firing	j	l. the backward movement of a weapon after it is fired
outdoor firing range (n)	g	m. the parts which help you aim the weapon better 

5) Let's practise saying the words. Listen and repeat.

- 6) Complete the sentences with words from Exercise 4.
- Hold the weapon firmly with both hands. Maintain **trigger control** by smoothly pulling the trigger.
 - The soldiers raise their rifle and **aim** at the **target**, which is 300 metres away.
 - You have to **align** your front and rear sights on the target – this is a basic rule of **marksmanship**.
 - There are four standard **firing positions**: standing, kneeling, sitting, and prone.

Practice

- 7) Discuss these questions with a partner. Use the words you learned in Exercise 4.
- What weapons training have you done? What kind of training was it?
 - What are the first marksmanship rules that you learned in the military?
 - Which of the marksmanship rules from exercise 2 are you good (or bad) at?
 - What other rules can you add to improve your marksmanship?
- Play the weapons training video below. As you watch and listen, write a list of some of the new words you have learned throughout this lesson.
 - Click this YouTube link [ADF Skill at Arms Combat Shooting Competition 2020](#), or scan the QR Code to play the video.
- Answers: kneeling position (see); prone position (see and hear); aim (see); standing position (see and hear); ; grip (see); target (see and hear); sight (see)
- This lesson links with → Vocabulary Builder – Parts of an Assault Rifle Lesson – At a Firing Range

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These Australian soldiers are practising marksmanship skills with Timorese forces at a firing range in Liquica, Timor Leste.

