



Military English

Lesson: Military Exercises - Reading

TEACHER'S COPY

Overview:

This lesson involves a reading about joint military exercises between the Australian Defence Force and other international military organisations, and vocabulary for joint exercises.

In this lesson, you will:

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

Prepare for Reading

1) In pairs or small groups, discuss these questions.

If you have been in a military exercise...	If you have NOT been in a military exercise...
a. what is the name of the exercise?	e. which military exercise do you want to join?
b. what did you do there?	f. what will you do?
c. how many days was it?	g. will a/this military exercise be fun?
d. was it fun?	

This exercise is to engage students in the topic and activate any prior knowledge. There are no correct answers, but any amount of speaking on the topic is useful. Make sure students know which column they should focus on.



Reading

2) Before reading the text, discuss this question in groups.

Military exercises happen all the time, all over the world. Why are military exercises important?

This exercise is to further engage students in the topic and to encourage group discussion. It's ok if students can only produce one or two sentences; even isolated words are ok. There are no correct answers. You might like to 'teach' the content here if students don't have many ideas: military exercises are important e.g.

- to help the military force prepare for real war situations
- to help different friendly militaries learn about each other and how to work together better
- for different services to learn how to work together etc.

3) The text below explains why military exercises are important. Read the text and check your answers to the question in activity 2. Answer to why military exercises are important are highlighted in the text. **Do not** use a dictionary yet. You are going to learn the meaning of the words in **bold** in exercise 6.

Tip: When you see a new word in English try to:

- not use a dictionary first, but ask a classmate
- use an English-English dictionary
- use the sentence to help you guess the meaning



Exercise KAKADU /kækə'du:/

Exercise KAKADU is a **military exercise**. It happens every two years. It is the Royal Australian Navy's (RAN) largest exercise but the Royal Australian Air Force also joins in. This year more than 15 ships, 30 aircraft and about 3,000 **personnel** from more than 20 countries will join the exercise. Commander Robert Howard said that Exercise

KAKADU is the Navy's most important **international engagement** activity. It **helps build relationships** with Australia's **partner countries**. It is an **excellent opportunity for different countries to train together**. They also prepare for different situations, such as **armed conflict, disaster relief or humanitarian aid missions**.

For 12 days, soldiers will practise **live-fire, aerial drills** and many other activities. Communication is very important in military exercises. Each of the countries will have **military interpreters** to make sure everyone understands each other.

But training won't just be in the sea or sky. Personnel will take part in **briefings**, meetings and presentations, too. And at the end of each day, the Navy is planning some **downtime activities**, for example cultural events and sporting competitions.

4) Now read again and complete this quick fact sheet.

Exercise KAKADU – Quick facts:

- How long? 12 days
- Number of personnel: about 3,000
- Number of ships: more than 15
- Number of countries: more than 20
- Number of airplanes: 30

- 5) Read the text again and answer true or false.
- Exercise KAKADU happens every year. **False - It happens every two years.**
 - Only the Royal Australian Navy takes part in Exercise KAKADU. **False - ...the Royal Australian Air Force also joins in.**
 - Exercise KAKADU is the largest military exercise of the Royal Australian Navy. **True**
 - Exercise KAKADU will only have training at sea and in the air. **False - ...training won't just be in the sea or sky. Personnel will take part in briefings, meetings and presentations, too.**
 - Exercise KAKADU helps the countries prepare for many situations. **True**

Learning Military Vocabulary

- 6) 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.

exercise Kakadu is a military exercise (n)	i	a. to work with other people or countries in a positive and friendly way
an international engagement activity (n)	g	b. when one group uses weapons to fight another group
it helps to build relationships (v)	a	c. a meeting to share information, give instructions or discuss a situation
with our partner countries (n)	k	d. training with real weapons and real bullets
situations such as armed conflict (n)	b	e. training exercises using aeroplanes
situations such as disaster relief (n)	l	f. free time activities that are fun
situations such as humanitarian aid missions (n)	h	g. working with people from different countries
training will be in the form of live-fire (n)	d	h. to help people during difficult times, for example, after a natural disaster (a flood, tsunami, etc.) or in a war. This help can be e.g. bringing food, water, and medicine to them.
soldiers will practise aerial drills (n)	e	i. when a lot of military personnel train together to prepare for a real situation, for example, a war
Each country will have military interpreters (n)	j	j. military personnel who help people to understand each other when they speak different languages
a military briefing (n)	c	k. friendly countries that often work together
downtime activities (n)	f	l. when people help others after a natural disaster like a tsunami, flood, etc.

Example: a military **briefing** = c. a meeting to share information, give instructions, or discuss a situation

- 7) Now let's listen to the words practised in this lesson. Listen and repeat.

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.

8) Now complete these sentences with some of the words from exercise 6.

Each line corresponds to a word, so if a gap has two lines, it means it's a two-word phrase. In short, if any student is struggling with this task, let them know this and it should make it easier for those students to complete the task successfully.

- A military exercise is when soldiers practise for war or helping others.
- During the exercise, soldiers may do live-fire training with real bullets. Before this type of training, soldiers usually have a military briefing so that everyone is safe and knows what to do. If this is in a different language, a military interpreter who speaks your language will be there to make sure you understand the instructions.
- In a military exercise, personnel may also practise how to help people during a natural disaster or war. This is practice for a humanitarian aid mission.
- Personnel work very hard in military exercises. At the end of the day, sometimes there are downtime activities, so everyone can relax and have some fun.

Practice Teaching tips for this activity are found on page 6.

9) Here is some information on another large military exercise. Read the instructions below.

- **Student A, stay on page 4. Student B go to page 5.**
- Your partner has the information you need to complete your sheet.
- You have information that your partner needs to complete his/her sheet.
- Ask questions to your partner to complete your sheet.
- You ask one question, then your partner asks you a question, and so on.
- For example: A: *Where did it happen?*
B: *It happened in _____.*



EXERCISE KOMODO

- Where it happened: Indonesia and/or Lombok
- When it happened: 2018
- How many days: 6
- How many partner countries: 35
- Which services: Army, Navy, Air Force
- Which main activities: live-fire, aerial drills, disaster relief
- Number of personnel: about 4,000
- How many ships: more than 50

10) Here is some information on another large military exercise. Read the instructions below.

STUDENT B

- **Student A, go to page 4. Student B stay on page 5.**
- Your partner has the information you need to complete your sheet.
- You have information that your partner needs to complete his/her sheet.
- Ask questions to your partner to complete your sheet.
- You ask one question, then your partner asks you a question, and so on.
- For example: B: *When did it happen?*
A: *It happened in _____.*



EXERCISE KOMODO

- Where it happened: Indonesia (Lombok)
- When it happened: **2018**
- How many days: 6
- How many partner countries: **35**
- Which services: Army, Navy, Air Force
- Which main activities: **live-fire, aerial drills, disaster relief**
- Number of personnel: about 4,000
- How many ships: **more than 50**



- Watch this video about Exercise KAKADU:
Type on YouTube: [Exercise KAKADU 2022 Sea Phase](#) or scan the QR Code:



- This lesson links with → Lesson – Disaster Relief; Lesson – Humanitarian Aid.

This video about Exercise KAKADU can be used as an optional extra and an opportunity for self-study for students to reinforce what they learned from this lesson as well as to extend their vocabulary list. It is also a great opportunity to train their ear to different voices, accents, tones, pronunciation, and terminology. Consequently, it becomes a beneficial experience for learners to train their listening comprehension skills.

Guidelines for exercise 9 and 10. This is a jigsaw task, where student A has the information that student B needs to complete his/her sheet and vice-versa. It only works if pairs are not looking at each other's page. That is why each part is on a different page.

Go through the instructions with students and make sure they understand what to do. Pay special attention to the last item – the example. Model this to students and ask them to repeat. Perhaps ask a higher level student to role play the example question with you. Make sure students ask accurate questions, e.g. using auxiliary verb. Monitor to check that students are on task. Check answers as a class.

Exercise 7 Vocabulary Recording Transcript.

Exercise 7: Now let's listen to the words practised in this lesson. Listen and repeat:

military exercise

international engagement

build relationships

partner countries

armed conflict

disaster relief

humanitarian aid mission

live fire

aerial drill

military interpreter

military briefing

downtime activities

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