



Military English

Lesson: Recruit Training in the Australian Army - Listening

TEACHER'S COPY

Overview:

This lesson involves listening to a description of recruit training in the Australian Army, and learning vocabulary for this situation.

In this lesson, you will:

- ✓ predict content from an image
- ✓ listen to a text for specific information
- ✓ learn the meaning of new words
- ✓ use new words in a conversation

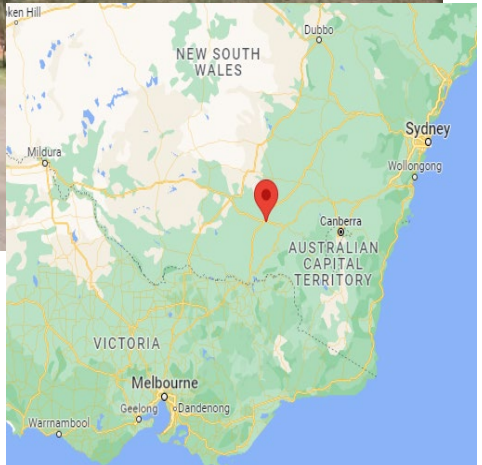
Prepare for Listening

1) Look at the photos – what can you see? What will we talk about in this lesson, do you think?

The first task involves some prediction from photos. There are no 'correct' answers, just allow students to make some guesses about what they see in the photos.

The question below the images is a quick check of the topic and the students' understanding of this key word 'recruit' (n):

'Kapooka' is the Australian Army's main base for soldier recruit training. It is in the state of NSW, about 250 km from Canberra, the capital of Australia.



? a 'recruit' is someone who is new to the military, and is / is not yet fully trained.

2) Watch the quick “Hello from Kapooka” video. [Hello from Kapooka - YouTube](#)

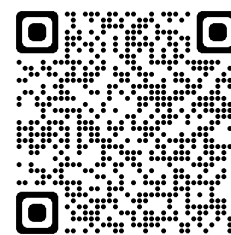
Listen and watch where the recruits are. Be careful they speak quickly!

Put these places in the order you see them on the video.

One of the places is NOT in the video. *No. 1 has already been done for you.*

Be careful you will NOT see one of these places.

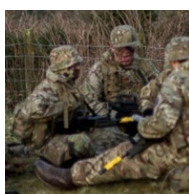

No. 1 is already done for the students, as an example and to help them get started. You may want to play this short video twice.



- the gym = 2
- the classroom = 4
- the field = 7
- the barracks = not on video
- the mess = 5
- the firing range = 3
- **the obstacle course = 1**
- the high ropes course = 6

You can add some personalisation to the lesson here by asking students if they have had any experience of these places in their training so far.

3) What do you do in these places? Match the places with the activity. Watch the video again, and check your ideas.

Places	Activity
a. the gym	2 get fit
b. the classroom	8 study
c. the field	 5 practise field craft
d. the barracks	6 sleep
e. the mess	1 eat
f. the firing range	7 learn how to shoot
g. the obstacle course	 4 learn how to climb over and crawl under things
h. the high ropes course	 3 learn how to climb walls using ropes

Listening

4) Listen to the instructor talking about recruit training in the Australian Army.

Answer the questions, by choosing True (T) or False (F).

Check your answers with a partner/a group. **If there is enough time, ask students to make the false statements correct.**

True or False?

- Each soldier in the Australian Army begins training at RAAF Base Williams. **F – Kapooka camp**
- The main aim of recruit training is to increase your health so you can be a good soldier. **T “Recruit training is about building the fitness required to be an effective soldier..”**
- All the classes will be outdoors. **F - Classes will be both outdoors and in classrooms.**
- Recruit training in the Australian Army is 3 months. **T**
- The training is easy. **F - The training is challenging. (‘challenging’ is the opposite of ‘easy’)**
- You learn how to iron your uniform. **F - You learn lots of things including how to shoot, combat skills, teamwork, etc.**
- The instructors on basic training want you to do well. **T (‘...succeed.’)**
- Before you leave Kapooka, you’ll also learn some special trade e.g. how to drive a tank. **F - not before, but after**
- After you finish the specialist training, you will start working as a soldier in an Army unit. **T ‘Once they finish their trade training, recruits will be assigned to an Army unit and their career as a soldier will begin.’**

Learning military vocabulary

5) 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.

Use the audio recording to help students practise their pronunciation of these words.

civilian(s) (n) become soldiers g.	g	a. how to live, travel and operate in the field without the enemy seeing you
weapons handling (n) h.		b. when you pass an exam or finish a course and can do a job, you have this
combat skills (n) i.		c. people who teach you
drill (n) j.		d. the first stage of learning about the military
field craft (n) a.		e. usually a ceremony to show you have finished your study
basic training (n) d.		f. to give someone a job or be sent to a workplace
the aim of instructors (n) c.		g. someone who is NOT military
graduation (n) from recruit training e.		h. to learn how to hold and use a rifle
learn their trade / profession (n) k.		i. the things you learn so you can fight in a war
a qualification (n) to help them b.		j. to practice or rehearse fighting in a war; practice marching
assigned to (v) an Army unit f.		k. more than the basics; a job in the military

*Example: **civilian(s)** = g. someone who is NOT military*

- 6) 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.
- 7) Now try to use some of the words from exercise 5 correctly in the sentences below. Fill in some spaces with information about your country/school.
- In my country, civilians enter the military and begin basic training when they are (own answer) years old.
 - I joined the army to get a profession/qualification and learn some special skills about repairing motor vehicles. **NB two possible answers here**
 - If my instructor thinks we did something wrong, we go onto the parade ground to practice drill for many hours, or we have to (own answer).
 - When will we finish this training and have our graduation? It's on (own answer).

Practice

- 8) Ask questions in a group. On the line, write the name of a classmate who gives you a 'yes' answer*.

Find someone who.....

- has a father **not** in the military* _____
- enjoys/enjoyed basic training _____
- has a favourite instructor _____
- likes being out in the field _____
- can handle a weapon _____

Is your father in the military?

Can you handle a weapon?

* this question needs someone who will answer 'no'

This activity is meant to allow students to get up and talk to as many other students as possible. If this doesn't suit your classroom, you can put students into new / bigger groups and get them to do it in groups.

First, it would be useful for students to understand the questions they need to ask their classmates, so modelling or eliciting the questions they will ask is a good first step. There are two example questions given. Try to elicit and practice the other four also i.e.

Do you have a father in the military? NB here the ss are looking for someone who will answer 'No'*

Do you enjoy / Did you enjoy basic training?

Do you have a favourite instructor?

Do you like being out in the field?

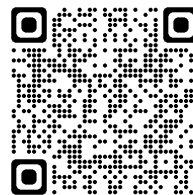
Feedback on this activity should as much as possible allow for students to say their new 'answer' / sentence e.g. Poom doesn't have a father in the military. OR Pipe doesn't like being out in the field.

- Watch these videos about basic military training in the Australian Army. Type the video titles on YouTube or scan the QR codes.

[What is Kapooka?](#)



[Life at Kapooka](#)



If you have time, or if students want, they can have a look at the other videos on Kapooka by clicking on the links or scan the QR code. There is some good listening practice in these, and of course the students can turn the sub-titles on when listening to help if needed.

- This lesson links with → Lesson - Life on a Military Base; Lesson – Studying Abroad.

Exercise 4 - Listening Audio Transcript:

In Australia every soldier starts life at Kapooka, the 'home of the Aussie soldier'. It's where **civilians** will become a fit and confident soldier in the Australian Army. Recruit training is about building the fitness required to be an effective soldier and making sure the recruits have the skills and the personal qualities for every challenge.

Recruit Training takes approximately 12 weeks for full-time Army personnel. Training happens here at Kapooka, in New South Wales.

In both classroom and outdoor environments, recruits learn a lot about being a soldier. The training is mentally and physically challenging. Some of the activities we train our soldiers on are; **weapons handling** and shooting; **combat skills**; first aid; teamwork; self-organisation skills; **drill** and **field craft**.

Although it can be hard work, most recruits feel really good about their achievement on **basic training**. They understand the purpose and gain confidence during their training. At the end of the course they feel proud of what they have achieved. The aim of our **instructors** is of course to help them succeed.

Following their march-out parade and **graduation** from recruit training, the recruits will start learning the skills of their **trade** or **profession** with the help of some of the best Army instructors in the world. This further training gives recruits more skills, and **qualifications** to help them in the future.

Once they finish their trade training, recruits will be **assigned to** an Army unit and their career as a soldier will begin.

Exercise 6 Vocabulary Recording Transcript.

Exercise 6: Now let's listen to the words practiced in this lesson. Listen and repeat:

civilian	instructor
weapon handling	graduation
combat skills	trade
drill	profession
field craft	qualification
basic training	assigned to

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