



Military English

Lesson: A Soldier's Biography - Listening

Overview:

This lesson practises listening in the context of a soldier's biography and related vocabulary of military service.

In this lesson, you will:

- ✓ listen for specific information
- ✓ listen for gist
- ✓ learn the meaning of new words
- ✓ use new words in context

Prepare for Listening

- 1) Look at the pictures and discuss the questions with a partner.
 - a. What is happening in pictures A, B and C?
 - b. What is the person's job in picture A?
 - c. How do **military personnel*** get **these**?

* **military personnel** –

(milpers) anyone in uniform who works for the military.

pronunciation: /,pɜːsə'nel/



C



A



B



Listening

2) You will listen to a recording about a ceremony.

- read the questions below
- listen and choose the correct answer (1, 2, or 3) to each question.
- then, compare your answers in small groups

ceremony – a special event to celebrate or mark something important.

pronunciation: /'serəməni/

- a. Where did CAPT Smith train to become an Army Officer?
1. Royal Military College
 2. Task Group Taji 3
 3. Land Warfare Centre – Canungra
- b. What is CAPT Smith's job today?
1. Training team leader
 2. Education Officer
 3. Artillery Officer
- c. When did CAPT Smith start working as an Education Officer?
1. in 2014
 2. in 2017
 3. in 2023

d. What type of ceremony is happening in the listening (1,2 or 3)?

1.



3.



2.



- 3) Listen to the audio again. Fill in the blanks to complete the sentences correctly with the words you hear. Check your answers with a partner after you have finished.

“Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, we are here for a special occasion to celebrate the **promotion** of LT Jane Smith. This is an important moment that highlights LT Smith’s hard work. LT Smith made a significant commitment when she **joined** the _____. Being a **commissioned officer** means she has an important **duty** to her country. Let me tell you more about LT Jane Smith.

LT Smith, a dedicated Australian Army officer, was born in Port Melbourne, Victoria. LT Smith joined the Australian Regular Army in January _____, and **graduated** from the Royal Military College in June _____. Upon **graduation**, she **posted** to the 8th/12th Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery.

In 2020, LT Smith **deployed** to Iraq on Operation OKRA with Task Group Taji _____ as a training team leader. In this **deployment**, LT Smith conducted Advanced Marksmanship courses, and trained _____ from the Iraqi **infantry**.

In 2023, LT Smith **transferred** to the Royal Australian Army Education **Corps** and **posted** to the Land Warfare Centre – Canungra. There, she started _____ as an Education Officer. LT Smith’s current **posting** is at the Army Education Centre – South East Queensland.

Her **awards** include the Australian Operational Service **Medal** – Greater Middle East Operation.

Today, LT Smith is **promoted** to the **rank** of _____.

Congratulations, Captain Jane Smith!

Let’s hear from Captain Jane Smith...”




Learning Military Vocabulary

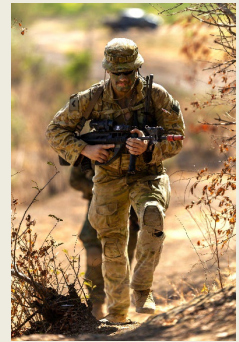
- 4) The words in bold in the text are important military vocabulary that you should learn to use. Match the military words on the left to their definitions on the right on tables one and two.
Look at the example.

Table one

celebrate the promotion of Jane Smith (n)	f	a. an officer who has higher rank and leadership responsibilities than a non-commissioned officer (NCO)
She joined the military (v)		b. = job, responsibility
a commissioned officer (n)		c. to start a new job
an important duty (n)		d. to pass a course
she graduated from the Royal Military College (v)		e. to start doing something new in the military e.g. work in a different unit, at a different place
She (was) posted to the 8th/12th Regiment (v)		f. a move to a higher military rank e.g. when a soldier moves from the rank of Lieutenant to Captain

Table two

LT Smith (was) deployed to Iraq (v)		g. to move to another area in the same organisation
infantry (n)		h. to send military personnel to a place for a mission
LT Smith transferred to another unit (v)		i. soldiers who fight on foot
the Royal Australian Army Education Corps (n) (corps is pronounced /kɔː/)		j. 
the rank of captain (n)		k. the position or level that military personnel have e.g. Captain, Major, Lieutenant Colonel, etc
awards (n)		l. a prize to a soldier because they did something special, brave or courageous
medal (n)		m. military units that are part of a bigger group; they work together and have the same goal



- 5) Now let's practise saying the words. Listen and repeat.
- 6) Look at the verbs and their nouns in the table below. Then, select the correct word form **in bold** (verb or noun) for each sentence a-d.

Verb (present tense)	Verb (past simple and participle)	Noun
graduate	graduated	graduation
promote	promoted	promotion
post	posted	posting
deploy	deployed	deployment

- a. My colleague's **promotion** // **promote** ceremony is at 0900 tomorrow.
- b. MAJ Anderson's **posting** // **posted** in Bangkok ends at the end of the year.
- c. The cadets **graduation** // **graduated** last week. It was a beautiful ceremony.
- d. The Australian Defence Force **deployment** // **deploys** peacekeeping forces to different parts of the world.

7) Complete the sentences below with words from Exercise 4.

- a. General is the highest _____ in the Army.
- b. A Sergeant is a non-commissioned officer; a Lieutenant is a _____.
- c. An _____ soldier fights on foot and uses weapons such as rifles and grenades.
- d. After the successful mission Corporal Singh received a _____ for his acts of bravery.
- e. Major Fraser used to be a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy. He _____ to the Army about two years ago.
- f. A soldier's most important _____ is to defend their country and follow orders with discipline.

Practice

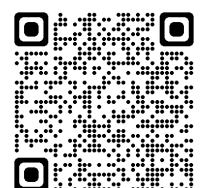
8) Your Commanding Officer (CO) has asked you to write a text for him to read at a promotion ceremony. Read the notes he prepared below and write a speech on a separate piece of paper. Use the text on page 3 to help you. After that, with a partner, take it in turns reading your texts aloud.

Notes for LT Jones' promotion to the rank of Captain (CAPT) this Thursday:

- Name: Stuart Jones
- Rank: Lieutenant (LT)
- Place of birth: Ballarat, Victoria
- Joined: 2017 (Army)
- Graduated from Royal Military College (RMC): 2019
- Postings:
 - Royal Australian Regiment: 2019
 - Transferred to 8th Signal Regiment: 2022
- Deployment:
 - Peacekeeping Operation UNMISS (South Sudan): 2021
- Awards:
 - Champion Shots Medal: 2020



- For more practice with the words you've learned here, scan the QR code.
- This lesson links with → VB – Ranks in the Australian Army



Write your text below:

Ladies and gentleman,

Today, we're here for a special occasion to celebrate _____
