



Military English

Lesson: Patrol Boats - Reading

TEACHER'S COPY

Overview:

This lesson gives practice in reading about patrol boats – more specifically the Guardian Class Patrol Boat – and related military vocabulary.

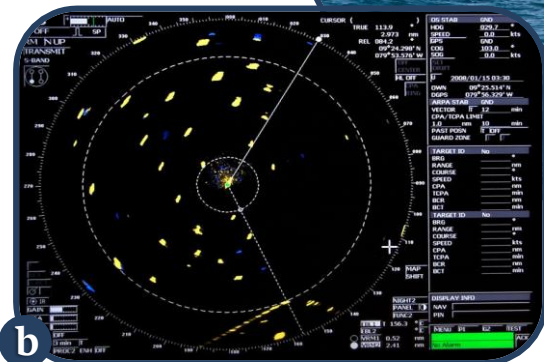
In this lesson, you will:

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

Prepare for Reading

- 1) In the centre there is a picture of a patrol boat. Around it are some of the jobs a patrol boat (or its crew) does. Discuss what they are with a partner.

Students discuss in pairs or small groups. Monitor and provide assistance as needed, for example, with pronunciation. Picture a: conducting humanitarian relief operations; picture b: monitoring other vessels in the sea using radar; picture c: boarding an illegal fishing boat; picture d: conducting search and rescue operations. If students suggest other jobs that you agree are indeed done by patrol boats and their crew, write these on the board under the heading 'other jobs patrol boats have'.



Reading

Tell ss not to use a dictionary at this point. Explain that guessing the meaning of new words based on the context and grammar is an important skill that helps learners navigate higher level text.

2) Read **the first paragraph only** of the article below and choose the best title for the text. Then check your answers with a partner/a group:

Do not use a dictionary yet. You are going to learn the meaning of the words in **bold** in the next exercise.

- a. Timor Leste instructors are arriving in Australia for training.
- b. The Timor Leste Defence Force will soon have new boats.
- c. The Royal Australian Navy is preparing to arrive in Timor Leste.

Tell ss the picture to the right is of an Armidale Class patrol boat, in current use by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).

patrol boat (n) – a small ship the navy uses to watch and protect an area of the ocean and make sure it is safe. The navies of Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Timor Leste, Malaysia and Cambodia all have patrol boats.



The Timor-Leste Defence Force (F-FDTL) received **training** from the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) to prepare for two new **patrol boats**, Aitana and Laline, which arrive in the second half of next year.

The boats will help protect Timor-Leste's **territorial waters** in the Timor Sea and improve **defence cooperation** with Australia and other countries.

According to a government report, the RAN sent Chief Petty Officer **Boatswain*** Christian Duncan, one of its best instructors, to conduct the training. Duncan said, "I'm an expert in patrol boats, **boardings** and **seamanship**. The Timorese Guardian **crew members** will need these skills to stop **illegal fishing**."

Australia is giving the boats to Timor-Leste and 12 other countries in the Pacific region, such as Tuvalu and Tonga. The boats are part of the AU\$2.1 billion Pacific Maritime Security Programme. The 128-foot patrol boats have a **range** of 3,024 nautical miles at 20 knots and carry 23 crew members. They can have a 30mm **autocannon** and mounted **machine guns**.

The program will improve cooperation between Timor-Leste and Australia, especially in the **maritime domain**. It will strengthen their ability to cooperate, conduct **drills** and training, and help each other in **humanitarian aid and disaster relief**.

* Boatswain can also be spelled Bosun

3) Now read the whole text, but quickly and find the following: **Monitor ss and provide help if needed e.g. if a student is struggling to find the information in the txt, help them by saying in which paragraph they can find the information. For example, "You can find the name of two ships in paragraph 1.**

- a. the name of two ships Aitana, Laline
- b. an amount of money AU\$2.1 billion
- c. the size of a boat 128-foot
- d. two countries (any 2) Tuvalu, Tonga, Timor-Leste, Australia

Learning military vocabulary

Inform ss that there are three tables e.g. the meanings for words in table one will only be found in table one. Monitor the ss and provide help if needed e.g. if a s has got a wrong answer, don't give them the correct one. By only saying "this is not correct, can you find the correct one?" it will scaffold the task so they have one more chance to get it right. Get ss to check answers in small groups when they're done.

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 to three.

Look at the example.

Table one


they received training (n)	e	<p>a. when a group of sailors work together to get on board another ship (see also picture c on page one)</p> 
help protect Timor Leste's territorial waters (n)	c	b. an officer on a ship whose job is to take care of the equipment and the people who work on the ship
improve defence cooperation (n)	d	c. the area of the sea, rivers, lakes, etc which belong to a country
boatswain Christian Duncan (n)	b	d. when the defence forces of two or more countries work together as friends
I'm an expert in boardings (n)	a	e. a learning experience to help someone do their job

Table two



I'm an expert in seamanship (n)	h	f. the people who work on a ship, aircraft, tank, etc.
the crew members (n)	f	g. when people break the law by fishing in a place they cannot catch any fish
to stop illegal fishing (n)	g	h. the skills someone needs to work on a ship
the boats have a range of 5,600 kilometres (n)	j	<p>i. a big gun on a ship or truck that can shoot bullets quickly</p> 
the boats can have a 30mm autocannon (n)	i	j. how far a vehicle (e.g. ship, car, truck, aircraft, etc) can travel without needing to refuel

Table three

the boats can have a mounted machine gun (n)	k	k. a weapon that can shoot bullets very quickly; the word 'mounted' means it doesn't move from its place.	
improve cooperation in the maritime domain (n)	m	l. the help governments and other organisations give when people need help, for example after a tsunami, earthquake, war	
ability to conduct drills (n)	n	m. the areas that include the sea, islands and the coast	
help each other in humanitarian aid and disaster relief (n)	l	n. military training	

5) Now let's practise saying the words in this worksheet. Pay attention to the word stress (strong/weak parts of words e.g. training). Listen and repeat.

Play recording and ask students to repeat after each item. First as a class, then select a few random students to repeat individually. The main stressed syllable is underlined in the words on the vocabulary box for pronunciation.

6) The units of measurement used on boats are different to those on land. Read the table below and fill in the gaps a-c below the table.

The measurement in the land and sea is slightly different and this table helps with converting these units. Get ss to check with a partner when they're finished. For FB, ask random ss to give their answer. Make sure everyone can hear him/her.

	nautical units of measurement	short form	metric system	short form
distance	1 nautical mile	NM	1.852 kilometres	km
speed	1 knot	kn	1.852 kilometres per hour	km/h (or kph)
length	1 foot	ft	0.3048 metre	m

Guardian Class patrol boat

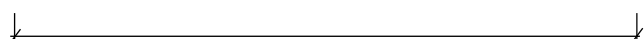
a. maximum speed: 20kn or 37.04 km/h

b. range: 3,000NM at 12kn or 5,556 km

at 22.22 km/h



c. length: 128ft or 39.01 m



Explanation about nautical mile [click here](#).

7) Now try to use some of the words from exercises 4 and 6 correctly in the sentences below.

Monitor ss and provide help if they're struggling e.g. say which table from task 4 they can find the correct word. Get ss to check their answers when they're done.

- a. Many South East Asian countries cooperate to keep the maritime domain safe from piracy and illegal fishing.
- b. Patrol boats aren't very fast, but they carry small boats inside that can travel at up to 40 knots.
- c. The Royal Australian Navy teaches basic training to its cadets so they know how to work on a boat.
- d. The crew members of patrol boats often do boarding drills, so they know what to do if they have to go aboard a boat.
- e. Countries like Indonesia and Australia use both patrol boats and maritime patrol aircraft to keep their territorial waters safe.

Practice

8) Discuss these questions with a partner:

Monitor and help ss with, for example, pronunciation. For feedback, ask a few stronger ss to answer to the class.

- a. Would you like to work on a patrol boat? Why?
- b. Why do you think patrol boats are important for a country's navy? How do they help protect a country?
- c. What kind of jobs do navy sailors have on a boat like this? Think, for example, about communications, driving the boat, repairing the boat, etc

- Watch this video about the Armidale Class patrol boats that are operated by the Royal Australian Navy. Type [Come On Board HMAS Armidale](#) on YouTube or scan the QR code.



This video can be used at different stages of the lesson:

at the beginning (before task 1) – don't give out the worksheets yet. Before you play the video ask the ss (write this on the board) "What type of boat is the video showing?" Answer: A patrol boat (Armidale Class). Then tell ss the lesson is about patrol boats and what they are used for. Play the video (either on the screen or share the QR code for ss to play on their devices), ask ss to check answers in pairs, then check answers as a class. EXTENSION ACTIVITY – ask them to watch the video again and write down (in English!) anything they see. This task will activate their schema and it might be a good indication of how much vocabulary they know.

at the end of the lesson – write on the board the following questions: What is the size of the Armidale class patrol boat? (56 metres long and 9 metres wide); How many people can sleep on the boat? (29 officers and sailors); How many engines does the boat have? (2); How many meals does the chef prepare per day? (90); How many rigid hull inflatable boats can the Armidale class boat hold? (2). This is a trick question, as the narrator says "with not just one, but two...". Tell ss they're going to watch a video of a tour of a patrol boat used by the RAN. They watch the video and answer the questions. Play the video again if necessary. Get ss to check answers in pairs, then check answers as a class.

- For more practice with the words you've learned here, scan the QR code. This set of flashcards will be permanently available, so ss can access it in their own time. Flashcards are a great way to consolidate new vocab. Encourage them to download the app, as it has additional practice tasks associated with the set of vocab.



- This lesson links with → Vocabulary Builder – Parts of a Patrol Boat
Vocabulary Builder – Ranks of the Royal Australian Navy

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