

Military English

Lesson: Snapshot of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) - Reading

Overview:

This lesson teaches words related to an air force.

In this lesson, you will:

- ✓ read and find general and specific information in a text
- ✓ learn the meaning of words related to an air force
- ✓ use new words in sentences and in conversations

Prepare for Reading

- 1) Let's find out how much you know about your air force. Talk to a partner do you know the answers to the questions?
 - a. How many aircraft are there in your air force?
 - b. What kind of aircraft does your air force have?
 - c. How many air force bases are there in your country?

an <u>air force base</u> (n) – the place where air force personnel work and aircraft stay when they are not flying.



Reading

- 2) Before reading the text below, discuss this question in groups.
 Many countries have an air force. Why is the air force different from the army and the navy?
- 3) Read the text quickly and complete the table below with numbers or words.

Outline of the RAAF



17 air bases across Australia

21,000+ personnel including 6,400 reservists

270+ aircraft

MAIN MISSIONS:

The RAAF defends Australian air space and assists other countries, for example:

- supporting international security and counter-terrorism missions,
- guarding coastlines,
- conducting search and rescue missions,
- supporting peacekeeping operations,
- and providing disaster relief.

Main aircraft types:

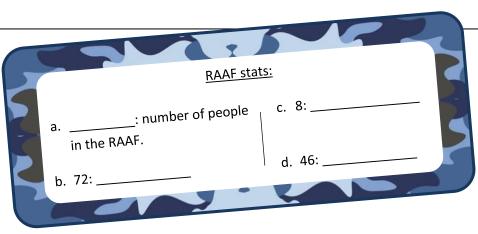
Fighter aircraft → Used for fighting other aircraft. The RAAF has 72 F-35A Lightning 2 fighter aircraft.

Ground Attack aircraft → Used for attacking ground targets, like tanks, trucks, and buildings. Weapons can include bombs and rockets. The RAAF has 24 F/A-18 Super Hornet fighter / ground attack aircraft.

Maritime Patrol aircraft → Used for flying around the coastlines and oceans hunting for enemy submarines and ships. The RAAF has 12 P-8A Poseidon Maritime Patrol aircraft.

Transport aircraft → Used for carrying personnel, vehicles, and equipment. Some transport aircraft can carry tanks and helicopters. The RAAF has 8 C-17 Globemaster, 12 C-130 Super Hercules, and 10 C-27J Spartan.

Trainer aircraft → Used for training pilots and crews. The RAAF has 33 BAE Hawk and 46 Pilatus PC-21.





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. Look at the example.

Table one

Table one				
RAAF person <u>nel</u> train for different missions (n)	С	a. missions which try to stop wars and make places safe for people		
a reservist (n)		b. something that means safe and protected		
security is important at this air base (n)		c. people who work in a military service, for example, soldiers and sailors		
some officers are trained in counter-terrorism (n)		d. a person in the military who works part-time, for example, this person might only do military training on weekends		
guarding the coastline (n)		e. to look for people who are in trouble and help them		
a search and <u>res</u> cue mission (n)		f. the area between the land and the sea, for example, the line around an island on a map		
after the war, peacekeeping operations made the country safer (n)		g. to fight terrorists (= people who create fear by hurting or killing other people)		
Table two				
providing disaster relief (n)		h. aircraft used to teach a student how to fly		
this <u>figh</u> ter <u>air</u> craft is very fast (n)		i. an aircraft which moves heavy things like tanks, helicopters and personnel		
a ground at <u>tack</u> <u>air</u> craft (n)		j. to help people after a natural disaster like flood, earthquake, tsunami, etc		
a <u>ma</u> ritime pa <u>trol air</u> craft (n)		k. an aircraft which can shoot down another aircraft		
a <u>trans</u> port <u>air</u> craft (n)		I. an aircraft which can look for ships and submarines		
some <u>trai</u> ner <u>air</u> craft are easy to fly (n)		m. an aircraft which can attack ground targets such as buildings		

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

Practice

- 6) Read the text again and think about the words you have learned in this lesson. Answer true or false.
 - a. The RAAF can help find people if they are lost.
 - b. The F-35 Lightning II is used for transporting tanks and trucks.
 - c. The F/A 18 Super Hornet is a fighter plane and a ground attack plane.
 - d. The C-130 Hercules is a maritime patrol plane.
 - e. The Pilatus PC-21 is a training plane.

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/)	Now complete these	sentences with som	ie of the word	is from ex	ercises 3 an	ıd 4.

a.	Operation Fiji Assist was a	operation conducted by the RAAF after a co	yclone						
hit	Fiji in 2016. The RAAF used some of its	aircraft to bring basic item	ıs such						
as	food and water.								
b.	The P-8A Poseidon, which is a	aircraft, can fly around	the						
	of Australia searching f	or submarines and ships. It can also be used	for						
	missions if	people or ships are lost at sea.							
c.	Before flying a fighter aircraft, pilots spend many	hours practising on a	aircraft						
d.	don't get the same amo	unt of training as other air force personnel, b	out they						
are	are ready to join the fight if there is a war.								

- 8) Discuss these questions with a partner. Use the vocabulary from exercises 3 and 4
 - a. Which of the operations below does your air force conduct? When did they happen?
 search and rescue // counter-terrorism // peacekeeping
 - b. What kinds of missions would be most interesting to do? Why?
 - c. If you could be a pilot, what kind of aircraft would you like to fly? Why?
 - d. What types of bases are there in your country? (e.g. army, navy, air force, what do personnel do there, how big they are, etc).
- For more information about the Royal Australian Air Force, watch this video. →
 Type on YouTube <u>F-35s</u>, <u>Hornets and Growlers team up for Exercise Arnhem Thunder</u>
 or scan the QR code below on the right.
- This lesson links with → Lesson Military Drones;

Vocabulary Builder – Parts of an Aircraft

Vocabulary Builder – Types of a Helicopter

Vocabulary Builder – Ranks in the Royal Australian Air Force

