



Military English

Lesson: Snapshot of the Australian Army – Reading

TEACHER'S COPY

Overview:

This lesson presents words related to an army.


In this lesson, you will:

- ✓ read and find specific information in a text.
- ✓ learn the meaning of words related to an army.
- ✓ practise pronunciation of new words.
- ✓ use new words in sentences.

Prepare for Reading

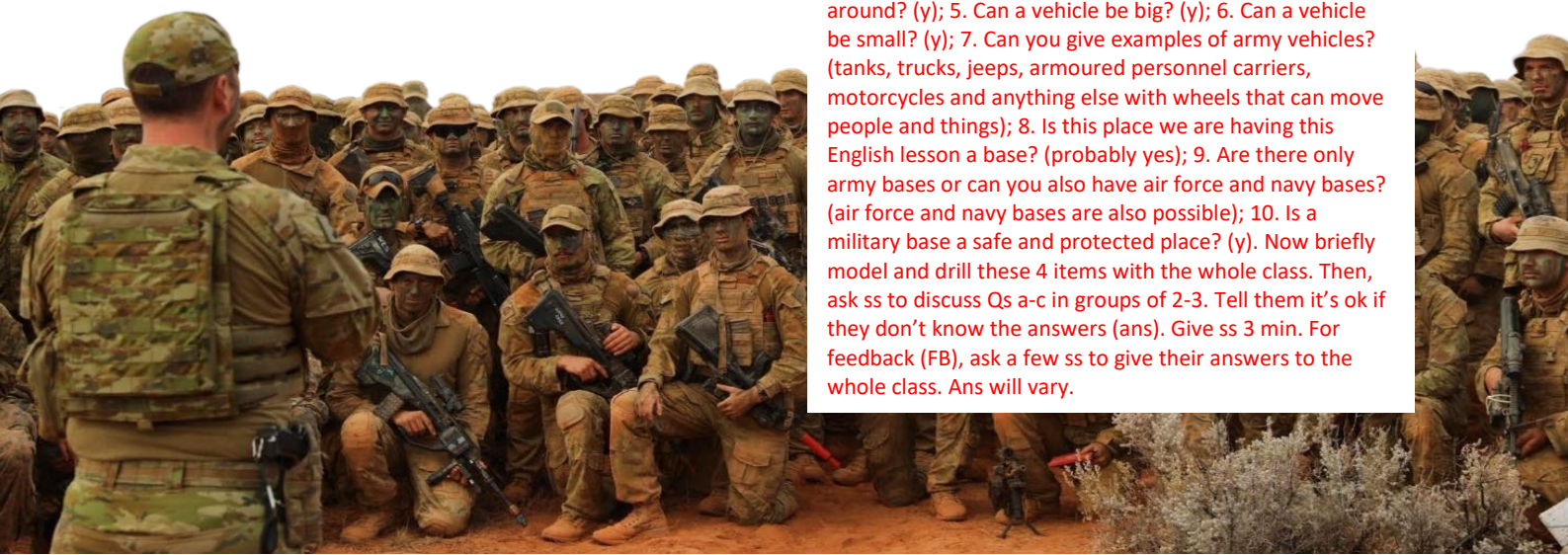
- 1) How much do you know about your army? First, match the words to their meanings in the green box below. Then, talk to a partner – do you know the answers to the questions?

Match the words on the left with their definitions on the right:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. vehicle (n) b. | a. a special material in clothes and in military vehicles that protects soldiers from enemy fire |
| 2. armour (n) / armoured (adj) a. | b. a machine with wheels used for moving things and soldiers around |
| 3. tank (n) d. | c. a place where soldiers train, work and live |
| 4. army base (n) c. | d.  |

- How many **tanks** or **armoured vehicles** are there in your army?
- What kind of **tanks** or **armoured vehicles** does your army have?
- How many **army bases** are there in your country's army?

Give ss 2min to do the matching task. Monitor and provide help if needed. If a student has a wrong ans, instead of giving them the ans, say "this is not correct; can you find the correct ans for this?". As you monitor, note correct ans by different ss. During FB, ask these ss with correct ans to give their ans to the whole class, one ans per student. Then, to make sure they understand the vocab, ask these CCQs: 1. Is a tank very strong? (y); 2. If a bullet hits a tank, does it kill the soldiers inside? (n). Why not? (because tanks have armour [quickly model this word]); 3. Does armour protect soldiers from bullets and explosions (boom)? (y); 4. Is a vehicle something you use to move around? (y); 5. Can a vehicle be big? (y); 6. Can a vehicle be small? (y); 7. Can you give examples of army vehicles? (tanks, trucks, jeeps, armoured personnel carriers, motorcycles and anything else with wheels that can move people and things); 8. Is this place we are having this English lesson a base? (probably yes); 9. Are there only army bases or can you also have air force and navy bases? (air force and navy bases are also possible); 10. Is a military base a safe and protected place? (y). Now briefly model and drill these 4 items with the whole class. Then, ask ss to discuss Qs a-c in groups of 2-3. Tell them it's ok if they don't know the answers (ans). Give ss 3 min. For feedback (FB), ask a few ss to give their answers to the whole class. Ans will vary.



Reading

2) Before reading the main text, discuss the question below in small groups of 2-3.

Most countries have an army. Why is an army different than an air force and a navy?

This activity will help prepare students for the reading. Answers may vary. Expect to hear answers like, 'an army protects the land, an air force protects the air space, and a navy protects the seas'. 'An army has tanks, trucks, guns and soldiers, a navy has ships and submarines, and an air force has aircraft'. However, there are similarities between the three e.g. armies may also have ships; air force and navy personnel also train to shoot weapons. Expect ss to mention this as well.

3) Read the text quickly and complete the table below with numbers or words.

Before they start reading, direct ss' attention to the box below the text. Go over it with them and elicit what kind of information from the txt they need to fill in with. E.g., item 'a' is a number, so they have to look for a number. Give ss 5-6min to read and answer Qs a-d. For FB, ask them to check with a partner. Then ask the whole class for the ans.

Outline of the Australian Army



15 large bases across Australia

48,500+ **personnel** including 21,000+ **reservists**

14,000 vehicles & aircraft

MAIN MISSIONS

The Army defends Australia's land and helps to keep peace in other countries, for example:

- supporting international **security** and **counter-terrorism** operations,
- **patrolling** borders,
- conducting **search and rescue** missions,
- supporting **peacekeeping operations**,
- and providing **disaster relief**.

The Army has many kinds of vehicles, including:

Main Battle Tank (MBT) → Used for fighting other tanks and all other vehicles. The Army has 59 M1A1 Abrams tanks.

Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) → Used for carrying soldiers and equipment into battle. The Army has 430 M113 APCs.

Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle (CRV) → Used for hiding and watching the enemy, and for patrol missions. The Army has 257 ASLAV and 68 Boxer CRVs.

Infantry Mobility Vehicle (IMV) → Used for carrying soldiers on patrol missions. The Army has around 1,000 Bushmaster and 1,000 Hawkei vehicles.

Military Truck → Used for carrying personnel, equipment, and supplies. The Army has around 3,500 trucks.

Australian Army stats:

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| a. 48,500 : number of people in the Australian Army. | c. 68: Boxer CRVs |
| b. 430: APCs | d. 3,500: (military) trucks |

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.

Have ss look at the example. Explain 1. they have to match the words on the left with the definition on the right; 2. the tables are separate e.g. the answers for table one are only in table one, not table two. Give ss 10min. Monitor and help if needed. If a s has a wrong ans, instead of telling them the correct ans, just say "this is not correct; can you find the correct ans for this?" Then ask them to check with a partner. For feedback, ask individual ss to give answer to the whole class, one student per ans. If the ans is incorrect, ask another s.

Table one

| | | |
|--|-----------|---|
| military personnel wear a uniform (n) | c | a. to look for people who are lost and take them somewhere safe |
| reservists are very important to the army (n) | d. | b. to fight terrorists (= people who create fear by hurting or killing other people) |
| security of the country (n) | f | c. people who work in a military service, for example, soldiers and sailors |
| counter-terrorism operations (n) | b | d. people in the military who work part-time, for example, they might only do military training on weekends |
| soldiers are patrolling nearby (v) | h | e. when organisations like the UN work to try to stop wars and make places safe for people |
| search and rescue missions (n) | a | f. something that means safe and protected |
| supporting peacekeeping operations (n) | e | g. to help people after a natural disaster (e.g. flood, earthquake) by bringing them basic items such as food and water |
| disaster relief arrived the day after the tsunami (n) | g | h. walking or moving through an area to keep it safe, or to find out what is happening there |



Ask CCQs for the vocab items above (continues on next page):

Personnel – Is personnel the people who work for the army? (y); 2. Is personnel the equipment in the army? (n); Can personnel be men and women? (y)

reservist – 1. Does a reservist work in the army every day? (n); 2. Do reservists usually have another job? (y); Can a reservist be men and women? (y)

security – 1. Does security mean keeping people safe? (y); 2. Does security mean keeping places safe? (y); 3. Does the military help with the security of a country? (y); 3. What else helps the security of a country? (ans will vary, but elicit air force, navy, police)

counter-terrorism – 1. Does a terrorist hurt and kill people?; 2. Is counter-terrorism about stopping terrorists? (y)

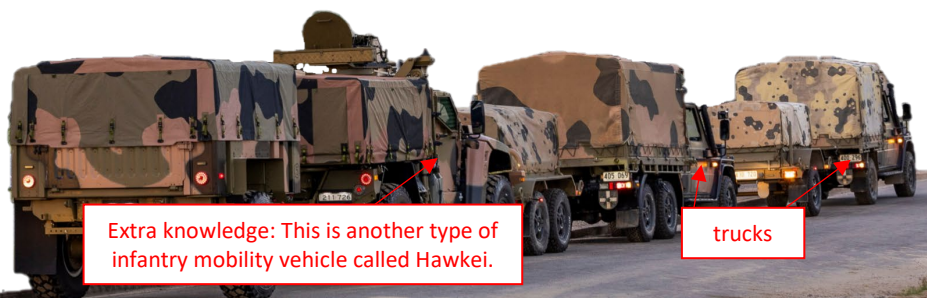
patrol – 1. Is a patrol about moving around to check an area and make it safe? (y); 2. Do soldiers go on patrol to look for danger? (y); 3. On a patrol, do soldiers stay on the same place? (n); 4. Can soldiers go on patrol on foot or in a vehicle (e.g. a truck)? (y)

Here are some Australian Army vehicles. Which one is the Bushmaster? How many trucks do you see? Do this quickly with the whole class. Ans below

Bushmaster



Extra knowledge: This is another type of infantry mobility vehicle called Hawkei.








trucks

search and rescue – 1. Is search and rescue about finding people who are missing? (y); 2. Is search and rescue about looking for people who are in danger? (y); 3. Is search and rescue the same as going to war? (n)

peacekeeping operations – 1. Does a peacekeeping operation help people? (y); 2. Is peacekeeping about fighting in a war? (n); 3. Can soldiers from different countries work together in a peacekeeping operation? (y);

Disaster relief – 1. Give me examples of natural disasters. (ans will vary, but some examples are flood, earthquake, tsunami, cyclones, volcano eruption). 2. Do people usually need help after a natural disaster? (y); 3. What do people usually need after a natural disaster? (ans will vary, but elicit food, water, a place to sleep, medicines, doctors and nurses); 3. Does disaster relief help people after a natural disaster? (y); 4. Can only the military work in disaster relief? (n, other people in the police, government, and civilians can also work).

Table two

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <u>Main Battle Tank</u> | k | i.  |
| <u>Armoured Personnel Carrier</u> | j | j.  |
| <u>Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle</u> | m | k.  |
| <u>Infantry Mobility Vehicle</u> | i | l.  |
| <u>Military Truck</u> | l | m.  |

Ask CCQs for the vocab items above:

main battle tank – 1. Is a tank a big and heavy vehicle? (y); 2. Does a tank have a big gun? (y); 3. Does it have thick armour (a special material outside the tank that protects the soldiers inside from explosions and enemy gun fire)? (y); 4. Is it used for moving soldiers around? (n)

armoured personnel carrier – 1. What is another name for an armoured personnel carrier? (APC); 2. Does it take soldiers to different places during a battle? (y); 3. Does the material outside an APC protect the soldiers inside? (y); 4. What do you call this protection? (armour)

combat reconnaissance vehicle – 1. Is this vehicle used to find where the enemy is and what they are doing? (y); 2. Do Combat reconnaissance vehicles have different shapes? (yes, they can be smaller and faster, or they can look like a tank – heavy and with a big gun); 3. Does it usually have a gun? (y, but usually smaller than a tank gun)

infantry mobility vehicle – 1. Does the army use the infantry mobility vehicle to move soldiers around? (y); 2. Is an infantry mobility vehicle armoured? (y, it protects the soldiers inside from small guns and landmines); 3. What is the difference between an infantry mobility vehicle and an APC? (An APC is bigger and can carry more soldiers; an infantry mobility vehicle is faster; an APC has more armour; an APC usually has bigger guns; an infantry mobility vehicle looks more like a truck, but an APC looks more like a tank)

military truck – 1. Are they used to carry soldiers and equipment? (y); 2. Do military trucks have armour? (usually no); 3. Do they have big guns? (n)

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

Pay attention to the word stress parts of words. E.g. reservist. Use this stage of the lesson to drill pronunciation with class/individuals. Play the recording and ask the class to repeat. Then play again and ask random ss to repeat individually. Correct pronunciation, especially syllable stress.

6) Think about the text and the new words in this Lesson. Answer true or false.

As an example, do the first one as a class: Ask the whole class who can find the ans to letter 'a' first. When a student gives the (correct) ans, ask them to show where the ans is in the txt. Now give ss 5min to do this. When they finish, ss check with a partner. Ask a ss to give their ans to the whole class. This exercise can be done in groups or as a class or orally. You can make more true and false sentences based on the information provided on the first page.

- a. The Australian Army can help find people if they are lost. **True**
- b. A tank is used for moving people and things. **False**
- c. Military trucks can move soldiers around. **True**
- d. An Armoured Personnel Carrier protects the soldiers inside from enemy fire (e.g. bullets, guns, landmines). **True**
- e. A Bushmaster vehicle can quickly move a few soldiers to different places. **True**
- f. Military trucks protect the soldiers inside from bullet and gun fire. **False**

7) Now complete these sentences with some of the words from exercises 3 and 4. Use the words in the box below. The first one is done for you.

Ss can do this in pairs or groups of three. Ss with lower English levels would require help, so the T can provide the answers so ss can put them in the right blanks. T can revise the definition orally at this point and read out the passage for clarity.

The Australian Army includes personnel who work for the Army everyday (full-time) and ^{1.} reservists (these soldiers don't work for the Army every day). Personnel work at an ^{2.} army base. This place is where they train, prepare for missions and sometimes live. The Army uses different ^{3.} armoured vehicles that keep soldiers safe from enemy fire (small and large guns). They also use ^{4.} combat reconnaissance vehicles to gather information about the enemy. The Army helps in ^{5.} search and rescue operations to find and save people in danger. The Army sends soldiers and equipment to ^{6.} peacekeeping operations to help keep the peace in some parts of the world. Soldiers often go on ^{7.} patrol to watch and protect important areas. These can be on foot or in vehicles.

armoured // peacekeeping operations // patrol // ~~reservists~~
combat reconnaissance vehicles // search and rescue // army base

Practice

8) Discuss these questions with a partner. Use the vocabulary from exercises 3 and 4.

Encourage ss to use as much of the new vocab as possible. Give them 5-7min. Monitor and help ss if they need it, but avoid interrupting – this is a fluency, not an accuracy task, so it's ok for them to make small mistakes. For FB, ask a few ss to give their ans to the whole class.

- Which of the operations below does your army conduct? When do they usually happen?
search and rescue // counter-terrorism // peacekeeping
- What kinds of missions would be most interesting to do? Why?
- What kind of army vehicle would you like to use or drive? Why?
- 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 practice with the words you've learned here, scan the QR code. →

The link takes ss to a Quizlet flashcard set. It's a very useful tool for self-study (e.g. revise the vocab in this lesson). There, ss can test their knowledge with flashcards or computer generated activities. Ss will have to create a Quizlet account, which is free. Encourage them to install the Quizlet app, as most of the Military English lessons have a Quizlet set. Ask ss to access this set two days after as a revision activity, then access it every so often (e.g. every 2 weeks).



- For more information about the Royal Australian Army, watch this video.

As you watch it, tick the things below that you see in the video.

Type on YouTube: [Australian Army - Land Power](#) or scan the QR code. ↘

This is an optional activity. Either assign as homework or watch it in class. Play it where all ss can see, or ask them to scan the QR code and watch it on their devices. Ask ss to cross the words below that they see in the video. For lower levels, you can say that ss will have to cross out four words. If this is set as homework, make sure to check their work in the next lesson.



- personnel patrolling Main Battle Tank
- Armoured Personnel Carrier Combat Reconnaissance Vehicle
- Infantry Mobility Vehicle Military Truck

As an extension activity, ask ss to watch the video again and write the things they see that are not included in this lesson. Ans will vary, as there is a lot, but some examples are: helicopter, assault rifle, drone, missile, (fighter) airplane.

This lesson links with → Vocabulary Builder: Facilities on an Army Base

Vocabulary Builder: Types of Army Weapons