



Military English

Lesson: Special Ops - SASR K-9 Support – Listening

Overview:

This lesson is about special forces tactical operations and a very special dog.

In this lesson, you will:

- ✓ listen for main ideas and details
- ✓ learn new words about tactical operations
- ✓ learn the meaning of new words
- ✓ practice talking about ideas from the listening.

Prepare for Listening

- 1) Look at some pictures from today's listening. Work in a small group and discuss the questions.
 - a. There is an English saying: "Dogs are the best people". Why do you think they say this? Do you agree?
 - b. Dogs (K-9s) serve in the Australian Defence Force (ADF). What do you think they do? Do you have working dogs in your defence force?



2) There are some words we need for today's listening in the box. Match them with the pictures.

a hero // a handler // patrol // a creek // hurt // bullets // a trap // a purple poppy // mates



a. _____



b. _____



c. _____



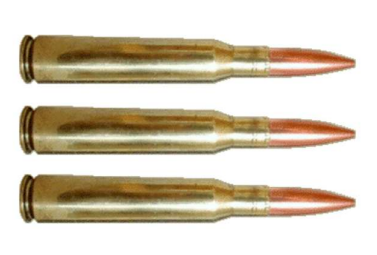
d. _____



e. _____



f. _____



g. _____



h. _____



i. _____

3) Listen, check and repeat.

4) Discuss these questions with your partner to practice the new words.

- Australians wear a red poppy to remember people who were in our wars. Why do you guess they wear a **purple poppy**?
- Have you ever gotten **hurt** at work? What happened?
- Who is your **hero**? Why?
- Would you like to be an animal **handler**? Why/not?
- Is a dog helpful on **patrol**? Why/not?
- Are there any **creeks** where you live?
- Who is your best **mate** at work?
- What **traps** do soldiers have to be careful of on patrol?

Listening

5) Listen to a talk about “Kuga”. What is the main idea of the talk? Circle the correct answer.

- a. Many different animals do many different jobs in the army.
- b. Kuga is a real Aussie hero.
- c. Kuga is the best dog in the Australian army.

6) Listen again and complete the sentences with 1-2 words.



Dog Handler, Sergeant Emma Hallahan and military working dog Kuga.

- a. Kuga served with the SASR in _____.
- b. Kuga bit the enemy fighter's _____.
- c. Kuga was shot _____ times.
- d. At first, Kuga's handler was worried Kuga was _____ in action.
- e. Kuga got medical care in Afghanistan, _____ and Australia.
- f. Kuga passed away in _____.
- g. Kuga's handler could go home to his _____ because of Kuga's choices.
- h. People wear a _____ to remember brave animals like Kuga.

The Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) is the special forces unit of the Australian Army.

The SASR uses Military Working Dogs in some of its operations.

What can Military Working Dogs do that people can't?



Learning military vocabulary

- 7) The words in **bold** are important military vocabulary that you should learn. Match them to their definitions on the right. Look at the example and write the answers in the middle column.

Table 1

| | |
|--|----------|
| served on tactical operations | f |
| the SASR (Australian Special Air Service Regiment) | |
| looking for insurgents | |
| go ahead to scout | |
| charged towards the shooter | |
| charged towards the shooter | |
| Kuga took a lot of fire | |

- a. (n) a special and very skilled group of soldiers in the Australian Army; they do very difficult and dangerous missions



- b. (v) to go ahead and look for danger or information; a soldier or an animal like Kuga does this to find out what is in an area before the main group goes there
- c. (n) a person who uses a gun to fire at someone or something; in the story, it is the enemy who shot Kuga.
- d. (vp) a person or animal was shot at many times by an enemy; many bullets hit or went very close to them
- e. (v) to run very fast towards something or someone.
- f. (n) small, planned military actions or missions. Soldiers do them to achieve a specific goal in a short time, often in dangerous places.**
- g. (n) people who fight against the army or government, often in secret; they are like enemies who use unexpected attacks

Table 2

| | |
|---|--|
| He thought Kuga was killed in action | |
| His team extracted him | |
| Kuga was airlifted | |
| shrapnel wounds in his back | |
| His death was recorded as ' died of wounds ' | |
| The insurgent was hiding to ambush | |
| never forget him or his ultimate sacrifice | |

- h. (n) giving your life to save others or to complete a very important mission

- i. (v) to be carried by an aircraft, like a helicopter or plane



- j. (vp) when a soldier dies because of the injuries they received in battle; different to 'killed in action' because they saw a doctor before they died
- k. (vp) when a soldier dies in battle
- l. (v) a surprise attack from enemies that you can't see
- m. (n) injuries caused by small, sharp pieces of metal. These pieces fly quickly through the air after a bomb or shell explodes and can hit people.
- n. (v) to be taken out of a dangerous place often by plane or helicopter

- 8) Listen and check.

- 9) Now, let's practise saying the words. Listen and repeat. Look at where the stress is underlined in words that have more than one syllable.

Practice

10) Using new words. Complete the questions with new words from the box. There is one that you will not need.

tactical operations // SASR // ambush // scout // shooter // died of wounds // killed in action

- a. Have you ever done training to go on _____? What is special about this training?
- b. What things do soldiers look for when they go ahead to _____?
- c. Is there something like the _____ in your armed forces? What do they do? Do you need special training?
- d. Are you a good _____? How do people get good at shooting?
- e. What should soldiers do if their patrol is caught in an _____?
- f. Are people more likely to be heroes if they are _____ rather than dying in the hospital?

11) Discuss these questions with your partner to practise the new words.

12) Look at the photos of some military animals, read the captions and talk to your friends.

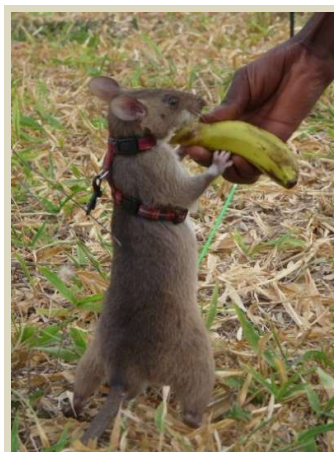
- a. Which job is the most surprising? Why?
- b. Which animal has the most important job? Why?
- c. Do animals serve in your armed forces?
- d. Kuga was good at scouting. Are there any jobs that animals would be good at in your armed forces?



Kiri the elephant helps clean up after bombs in Germany in World War II.



Dolphins have been used to keep navy boats safe and look for enemy swimmers.




This rat finds landmines (bombs hidden under the ground). He is getting a banana for finding a landmine.



Donkeys helped take wounded soldiers to safety in WWII.



Dogs carried messages for soldiers in World War I. They also helped soldiers feel happy at a very difficult time.

-  Watch this video about Kuga. Type “[Military Working Dog Kuga awarded the Dickin Medal](#)” or scan the QR code →



Complete the sentences with words that you see or hear:

- a. Kuga had a big _____.
- b. His _____ and him made a great team.
- c. Kuga is the only animal to win the Dickin Medal since _____.
- d. His handler feels _____ about what Kuga did.

- For more [practice](#) with the words you’ve learned here, scan the QR code. →



- This lesson links with → Vocabulary Builder – Parts of a Parachute
Vocabulary Builder – Compass Points