



CEFR A2 / ADFELPS 4
and above

Military English

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

TEACHER'S COPY

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.

Teacher's notes are indicated by this: **TN →**

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?

TN → Read the instructions together as a class. Allow students (Ss) a few minutes to do the activity in pairs or small groups. Monitor and help as needed. Listen for a few good/interesting answers (ans). Come back together and ask these Ss to share with the class.



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

TN → Read the instructions together. Have Ss work with a partner and guess. Monitor and support Ss. Encourage guessing. Ss probably won't know all the words. If you see Ss have one wrong, point it out to them, but let them try to work out what is right and wrong for themselves. Have Ss compare their ans. You don't need to check ans as a class. Use the recording for Ss to listen and check.

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



a. patrol



b. hurt



c. a creek



d. a trap



e. a purple poppy



f. a hero



g. bullets



h. a handler



i. mates

3) Listen, check and repeat.

TN → Use the recording to have Ss listen, check and repeat.

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

TN → This stage makes sure Ss understand the new words. They need to understand the words to talk about the questions (Qs). Allow Ss 5 mins to discuss. Monitor and support Ss with vocab as needed.

- 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.

TN → Read the instructions together. Make sure Ss know they are looking for the main idea and not specific information. Ss might find it helpful to think about this as this as finding a good title for the listening.

- 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.

TN → Read the instructions together. Give Ss a couple of minutes to guess answers with their partner. They can use parts of speech and their guessing skills. Ss do not have to change the form of the word. Listen and then have Ss compare with a partner. If necessary, have Ss listen a 3rd time. Check ans as a class.



- a. Kuga served with the SASR in Afghanistan.
- b. Kuga bit the enemy fighter's arm.
- c. Kuga was shot 5 times.
- d. At first, Kuga's handler was worried Kuga was killed in action.
- e. Kuga got medical care in Afghanistan, Germany and Australia.
- f. Kuga passed away in 2012.
- g. Kuga's handler could go home to his family because of Kuga's choices.
- h. People wear a purple poppy to remember brave animals like Kuga.

TN → If you have time, ask Ss to read the text below describing the SASR. Ask them to discuss the Q in groups of 2-3. Give them 1-2min, then elicit a few ans from the class.

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.

TN → Ask Ss to look at the example. Explain: 1. match the words in bold on the left with the definition on the right; 2. the tables are separate so the ans for table one are only in table one. Give Ss 10 mins. It's important to monitor. Go around the class and randomly check Ss' ans. If they're incorrect, just say they're incorrect and let them work out the mistake. Then ask them to check with a partner. No need to check answers at this stage since Ss will listen and check.

Table 1

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




- 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	k
His team extracted him	n
Kuga was airlifted	i
shrapnel wounds in his back	m
His death was recorded as ' died of wounds '	j
The insurgent was hiding to ambush	l
never forget him or his ultimate sacrifice	h

- 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.

TN → This stage acts like concept checking questions (CCQs) but is a little more fun. Put Ss into small groups and get each group to make their own buzzer sound. This could be clapping or hitting the table or stamping their feet. Tell Ss to make a team name with their group and write these on the board. Tell Ss that you are going to give them a clue, and the first team to use their "buzzer", hear their name called, and answer correctly gets a point. If you have internet in class, you could also change this stage into a quiz game like Kahoot!. 1. These people are very skilled and trained. They go on very dangerous missions and tactical operations. (SASR); 2. People who fight against the government. Often, they hide in the jungle. (insurgents) 3. You always hit the target if you are a good _____. (shooter. Here you can elicit another word for shooter - marksman); 4. This is another way of saying a person was shot with a gun many times. (took a lot of fire); 5. If you die fighting for your country, you have made the _____. (ultimate sacrifice); 6. When you run very fast toward the enemy you _____ them. (charge); 7. When Kuga was shot, Kuga and his team were on a _____. (tactical operation); 8. This is what Kuga's death was recorded as. (Died of wounds); 9. This is when you get hurt by small pieces of metal. (shrapnel wounds); 10. Sometimes, this is the best way to extract someone who has been hurt. (airlift); 11. If you are the first one to go and check an area, you are the _____. (scout); 12. When an enemy takes you by surprise, it is an _____. (ambush); 13. If a soldier dies on the battlefield, they have been _____. (killed in action). Work out which team is the winner!

Practice

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

TN → This stage gives Ss another chance to check their understanding of new words. Read the instructions together as a class. Allow Ss 5 mins to complete the activity. Then have them compare with a partner. Check ans together as a class.

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

- Have you ever done training to go on tactical operations? What is special about this training?
- What things do soldiers look for when they go ahead to scout?
- Is there something like the SASR in your armed forces? What do they do? Do you need special training?
- Are you a good shooter? How do people get good at shooting?
- What should soldiers do if their patrol is caught in an ambush?
- Are people more likely to be heroes if they are killed in action rather than dying in the hospital?

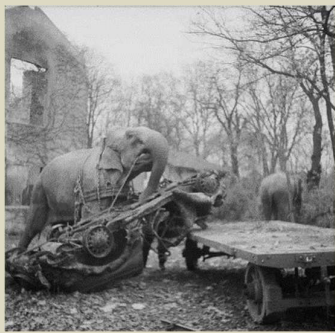
- 11) Discuss these questions with your partner to practise the new words.

TN → Ask Ss to discuss the Qs in pairs or small groups. Give them a time limit of 5-10 mins. Monitor and support with vocabulary as needed.

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

TN → Give Ss 5 mins to read and take notes about the animals. Monitor and support with vocabulary as needed. Then give Ss 10 mins to discuss the Qs with partners or small groups. Monitor and listen for interesting ans. Come back together as a class and have some Ss share their ans.

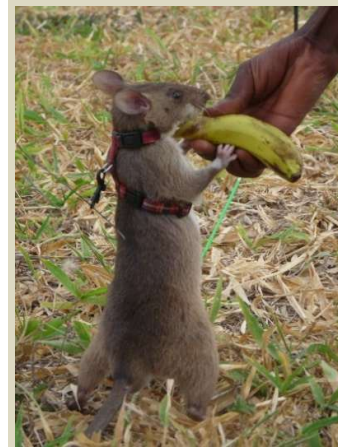
- Which job is the most surprising? Why?
- Which animal has the most important job? Why?
- Do animals serve in your armed forces?
- Kuga was good at scouting. Are there any jobs that animals would be good at in your armed forces?



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 →



TN → This is a very short 1-minute video. You could do this in class or set for homework.

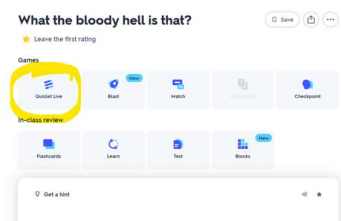
Complete the sentences with words that you see or hear:

- Kuga had a big heart.
- His handler and him made a great team.
- Kuga is the only animal to win the Dickin Medal since World War II.
- His handler feels proud about what Kuga did.

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



TN → If you have time left over, and your Ss have phones with internet play Quizlet live to consolidate the lesson. You will need to be logged into Quizlet for you to start the game as a teacher. Otherwise, you **cannot** see the icon. Here is a video on how the game works - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q64qTBfK0iE>



TN → If you don’t want to play Quizlet live (or if you don’t have the internet) there are many other games you could play to round off the lesson such as *Back to the Board*. Instructions here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p7j-2xteKB4> (I know the videos is kids, but it works for all ages, I promise!)

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

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Transcript

Today, we are going to hear a story about a true Australian hero who served in Afghanistan on **tactical operations** with the SASR - the **Australian Special Air Service Regiment**. This hero was a military dog named Kuga.

Kuga wasn't just any dog. He was specially trained to work in dangerous situations. His handler and him were best mates. They worked very well together.

In 2011, Kuga and his handler were in Afghanistan. Their patrol was looking for **insurgents** in a dangerous area. His handler let Kuga go ahead to **scout**.

Kuga followed his training. The soldiers didn't see the enemy, but Kuga could sense them. He swam straight across a creek towards them. The enemy opened fire. Bullets hit the water around him, but Kuga didn't stop. He reached the far side of the creek, **charged** towards the **shooter**, and bit hold of his arm. He held on tight with his teeth.

The insurgent shot Kuga. Hurt, Kuga let go. The insurgent shot him more and ran away. Kuga **took a lot of fire**. He was hit five times and lay down on the ground.

He didn't move.

On the other side of the creek, Kuga's handler was very upset. Was Kuga was **killed in action**? he thought. He called out to Kuga. Nothing. He called out again. Slowly, Kuga got up and swam back to his mate.

Kuga's team of humans **extracted** him from the area. Kuga was **airlifted** to another part of Afghanistan so he could get help. Kuga was shot in his ear, toe, cheek, chest, and leg. He also had **shrapnel wounds** in his back. Doctors tried to help him in Afghanistan, Germany and then in Australia. But Kuga never really got better. He died in 2012. His death was recorded as '**died of wounds**'.

Kuga's team think the dog saved their lives. The insurgent was hiding to **ambush** the SASR patrol. Without Kuga, they would have been completely surprised. But Kuga showed them the danger and stopped them walking into a deadly trap.

Kuga's handler misses him and thinks about him a lot. "I am pretty proud of what Kuga did that day. He is the one who chose to go forward. He's the one who chose to take bullets for me and my mates. Because of him, I went home to my family", he says.

Kuga was a true mate and a brave soldier. His team, especially his handler, will never forget him or his **ultimate sacrifice**. On special military commemorations, some people wear a purple poppy to remember all the animals like Kuga that have served Australia well.

He shows that heroes come in all shapes and sizes - even with four legs and a wagging tail.