



Military English

Lesson: Drones – The Future of Warfare? – Reading

Overview:

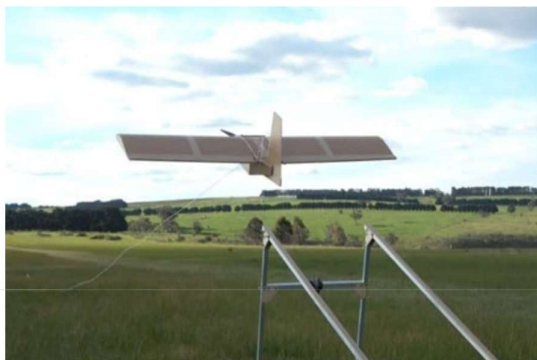
This lesson covers a new and interesting type of drone and the future of warfare.

In this lesson, you will:

- ✓ read a text for main ideas
- ✓ find specific information in a text
- ✓ learn the meaning of new words.
- ✓ practice talking about drones and the future of warfare

Prepare for Reading

- 1) Look at the photos of the **Corvo PPDS (Precision Payload Delivery System)** drone.
 - a. How is it similar and different to other drones you know?
 - b. What do you think this drone can do?
 - c. Why do you think they are special?
 - d. Do you know this drone?

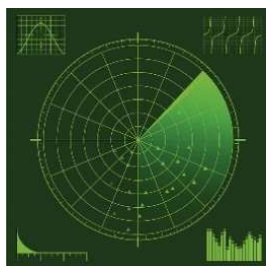


2) Here are some words we need for today's reading. Match them with the pictures.

transport // rubber bands // injury // cardboard // wax // radar //
sticky tape // metal // medicine



a. _____



b. _____



c. _____



d. _____



e. _____



f. _____



g. _____



h. _____



i. _____

3) Listen, check and repeat.

Reading

4) Read an article about a new military drone on the next page. Match the headings to the paragraph. Look at the example. Then, listen and check.

Introducing the Corvo PPDS!

The future of war?

Easy to move & cheap to make

The future of war

Look! No hands!

How the drone is used in Ukraine

Reading tip:

When we match headings, we are not looking for key words, but **main ideas**. The best way to do this question type is to read the paragraph, think about the main idea, and then match that to one of the choices.

Introducing the Corvo PPDS!

It might look like a toy **aircraft**, but many people think this **drone** is the future of war. The Corvo PPDS is made by an Australian company. The Australian Army has been sending 100 of these drones to Ukraine a month since March 2023.

The most interesting thing is that it is made out of cardboard, sticky tape, and rubber bands! There are many benefits to this. First, it is easy to transport. Australia sends it to Ukraine in flat pack packages, and Ukrainian soldiers put them together with glue. Second, this makes the drones very cheap. They can cost as little as \$3500. Another big benefit is that they are hard for the enemy to see. Because they are made of cardboard, **radars** find it hard to see Corvo PPDS drones. The radars can only “see” the metal parts of the drone, but these are very small.



The drone can fly **autonomously**, which means that it doesn't need a **drone operator**. Soldiers use a **GPS** to tell the drone where to go. Then, it flies by itself. This is important. It stops soldiers getting tired and gives them time to do other things.



SYPAQ, the company that makes the drones, say they first made the drones to get bags of blood to help injured soldiers. However, the drone is being used in Ukraine in many ways. First, it can carry lots of types of **payloads** – not just blood. For instance, it can take important things like medicine, food, and ammunition to soldiers in dangerous places. This is safer than sending trucks or **ground troops**. Second, the Corvo can be used for **reconnaissance** and **surveillance**. Ukrainian soldiers can put a **high-resolution camera** like a GoPro on it. The drone can then fly over an area and take pictures and videos. This helps soldiers see the **battlespace** without getting hurt. Because they cannot be seen by radars, they are good at **drone strikes**. Recently, a **swarm** of Corvo PPDS drones destroyed \$100 million USD of aircraft! Not bad for drones that only cost \$3500!

Many people are watching the war in Ukraine very closely. They think this will help them to understand the future of war. At the moment, it seems that drones will be an important part of that future.

5) Read the article again. Complete the sentences with one word or a number from the text.

- The Ukraine army gets _____ of these drones from the Australian Armed Forces per month.
- The _____ parts of the drone are invisible to radar.
- Soldiers have time for other tasks because the _____ can fly by themselves.
- Using the drones to deliver goods makes life _____ for trucks and ground troops.
- Sticking a camera on the Corvo PPSS helps soldiers see the _____ safely.
- Wars will probably have more drones in the _____.

6) Look at the words in **bold** in the reading. We will match them to their definitions next. First, look at them in the sentences and talk to your friends. Do you know any of them? Have you ever heard or read these words before? What part of speech are the words? What do you guess they mean?

Tip: When you see a new word in English, you can:

- ask a classmate.
- use an English-English dictionary.
- use the sentence to help you guess the meaning.

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





like a toy aircraft	f	a. (n) the things an aircraft, like a drone, carries e.g. supplies, cameras, or weapons	
this drone is the future		b. (n) systems that use radio waves to find things like planes or ships; they send out radio waves, and if these waves hit something, they bounce back - this is how the radar "sees"	
radars find it hard to see		c. (n) "Global Positioning System"; a system that uses satellites to find the exact location of things on Earth; soldiers and drones use this to know where they are and to find their way	
The drone can fly autonomously		d. (n) an aircraft that flies without a pilot inside; it comes in many sizes; it is usually controlled from the ground using a remote control	
it doesn't need a drone operator		e. (n) a person who controls a drone from the ground; they use a special device to tell the drone where to go and what to do	
Soldiers use a GPS		f. (n) a machine that can fly in the air e.g. planes, helicopters, and drones	
it can carry lots of types of payloads		g. (adv) when something does something by itself without a person controlling it	

Table 2

safer than sending trucks or ground troops	h. (n) a large group of drones flying together at the same time; they often work together to do a task, like watching a large area or attacking a target from many directions	
can be used for reconnaissance	i. (n) watching an area or people carefully over time	
reconnaissance and surveillance	j. (n) the area where a battle or fighting is happening or could happen; it includes the land, air, and even space where military activities take place	
a high-resolution camera like a GoPro	k. (n) personnel who fight on the ground; they move by walking or using vehicles on land, not in the air or on water	
see the battlespace	l. (n) attacks by drones carrying missiles or bombs	
they are good at drone strikes	m. (n) this can take photos with a lot of detail	
a swarm of Corvo PPDS	n. (n) finding out information about an enemy or an area	

8)  Listen and check.

9)  Now let's practise saying the words. Listen and repeat.

Practice

10) Using new words. Complete the questions with new words from the box.

GPS // high-resolution camera // autonomously // payloads // ground troops // drone

- a. Has your unit ever used a _____ like a GoPro? What for?
- b. These drones can fly _____. Is this positive or negative?
- c. The drone in today's lesson can carry _____ up to 5 kg. What things could be useful to send to soldiers in the battlespace?
- d. Have you ever flown a _____? Would you like to be a drone operator in the future?
- e. How can _____ use drones to help them plan what to do?
- f. Will _____ replace maps in the future? What do you prefer if you are out field? Why?

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

12) Preparing to speak. Write down 5 ideas you have about what war might be like 30 years in the future.
Use words from today's lesson.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

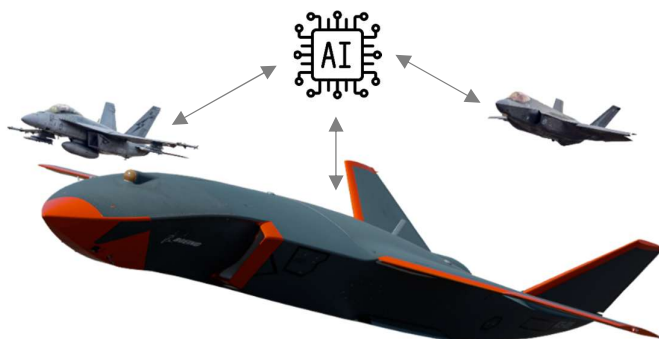
Speaking


13) Stand up and walk around the room. Can you find at least one person who agrees with your predictions?

I completely agree with you!

I haven't thought of that before. I'm not so sure.

I'm not sure I agree with that at all.



-  Watch this video about the drone in today's reading. Type "[Aussie company SYPAQ develops cardboard drones for defence if Ukraine](#)" on YouTube or scan the QR code →



- a. Listen, and circle words from the lesson that you hear.

swarm // reconnaissance // surveillance // cardboard // radars //

rubber bands // battlespace // drone // payloads

- b. Is there any other military vocab in the video that you want to learn? Write it below.

- c. The people talk about the possibility of the Australian Army using the drones. What might your army use the drones for?

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



- This lesson links with → Lesson: Military Drones – Listening
Vocabulary Builder: Parts of an Aircraft
Vocabulary Builder: Parts of a Helicopter