

## CHAPTER FIVE

# MILITARY MATTERS



In this chapter, three Korean-speaking members of the American military and a K.A.T.U.S.A. soldier speak about their experience of life and culture shock on a U.S. army post or air force base in Korea.

**IN THIS CHAPTER, STUDENTS WILL**

- 1. EXAMINE THEIR OPINIONS ABOUT CULTURAL DIFFERENCES.**
- 2. LEARN ABOUT THE KEY CONCEPTS IN THE CHAPTER—*CULTURE SHOCK* AND *GHETTO*.**
- 3. READ THE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION ON THE AMERICAN MILITARY IN KOREA.**
- 4. REREAD THE DISCUSSION AND ANSWER READING TASKS.**
- 5. TAKE THE READING COMPREHENSION TEST.**
- 6. DISCUSS THEIR OWN EXPERIENCE WITH THE KEY CONCEPTS AND ANALYZE REAL-LIFE SITUATIONS.**
- 7. DO A ROLE PLAY AND A LISTENING EXERCISE.**
- 8. DO EXERCISES ON METAPHORS, COLLOCATIONS AND ADVERBS.**
- 9. DO A CROSSWORD PUZZLE BASED ON WORDS IN THE CHAPTER.**

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**LET'S START WITH YOU.**

Rate the following statements according to this scale.

- 5—strongly agree
- 4—agree
- 3—neither agree nor disagree
- 2—disagree
- 1—strongly disagree



1. \_\_\_\_\_ A nation should be able to defend itself without help from abroad.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The U.S. and Korea have established an “older brother-younger brother” relationship.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The U.S. often uses its military superiority to impose its will on the rest of the world.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Korea is a land of formality and good manners.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ The Korean language is too difficult for foreigners to learn.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. service personnel behave badly in Korea because they believe it's a developing country so it doesn't matter how they behave.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. soldiers who seldom leave the army post are actually frightened of the foreign language and culture.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Culture shock can lead to self-awareness and self-knowledge.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ The S.O.F.A. (Status of Forces Agreement) is designed to keep U.S. troops out of Korean prisons.

10. \_\_\_\_\_ Korean news services seldom report crimes committed by Koreans against Americans.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Frequently contact with people of another culture usually leads to mutual understanding.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Most U.S. service personnel stationed in Korea do not want to be here.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ South Korea needs the American military to protect it from the North.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ South Koreans should consider establishing an all-volunteer military with good salaries, good training and good benefits.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ If Korean women were also required to do military service, it would help them along the road to complete equality with men.

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## LET'S LOOK AT KEY CONCEPTS.

If you experience **culture shock**, you may feel alone and confused by a completely different way of life. When people arrive in a new country voluntarily, they may go through different stages of adjustment: 1) curiosity and exploration, 2) culture shock, 3) some acceptance of the new culture, 4) rejection of previous ideas and/or their home culture, 5) acculturation and assimilation—fitting in. They may also be stuck in one of the stages and never move beyond it. People who are sent to a new country against their will—like refugees or military personnel—may not react as well. (neutral connotation)

It **was a real culture shock** to find herself in New York after living in a small Southern town all her life. (neutral)

I must be **in a state of culture shock**. I keep wondering why people here do things the way they do. (neutral)

A **ghetto** is a very poor area of a city in which a lot of people, often of the same race or religion, live closely together and apart from the rest of the city, or a part of society or a group that is in some way set apart from the others. (negative connotation)

As a child she lived in the city's poorest **ghetto**. (negative)

He was brought up in what he later called a “**middle-class ghetto**,” and he believed that everyone was as well-off as he was. (negative)

From our isolated position in the **ghetto**, we thought of those outside only with prejudice and stereotypes. (negative)

## LET'S TEST OURSELVES.

Review the definition of culture shock. Now, for each item, give the number of the stage of culture shock described in the situation.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ After a year abroad, the Irishman refused to speak English or socialize with native speakers of English.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ After looking at Korean factories, the American realized how important labor unions were in Korea, and then he saw how important they are in America.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ After she had been abroad for a year, the high school student was pleased to hear her classmates say, "She's just like us—no different at all."
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Every day Adrian wandered around a different part of the city and took ctures.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ In England, a Korean exchange student was surprised to discover she was comfortable wearing jeans, T-shirts and no make-up.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Melanie was delighted with China, but every evening she was so tired that she went to bed early with a novel in English.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Steve found he was much more hesitant about making decisions because he didn't know what was expected of him.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ The former Peace Corps volunteer passed the language test, invested a large amount of money in Korea, and became a Korean citizen.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ The Korean businessman was embarrassed when the flight attendant refused to carry his bag and told him to carry it himself.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ The vice-president became frustrated and confused when none of his favorite management methods seemed to work in the new place.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Westerners living in Korea decide not to wear their shoes in the house.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ While traveling abroad, the company chairman would eat only in Korean restaurants.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ As she sat drinking beer with the local people, the tourist happily questioned them about their ideas and way of life.

## LET'S LOOK AT METAPHORS.

Fill in each blank with a word from the list below.

barracks rat  
blew me away  
burned out  
chain

chip on one's shoulder  
freaked out  
hunting party  
underpinnings

### If you want to say...

1. that someone has become extremely emotional, you can say this person has \_\_\_\_\_, that is, became suddenly very strange, like unseasonal weather, abnormal physical characteristics, excess enthusiasm, or the effect of illegal drugs.
2. that something was so amazing it seemed like a big wind transporting you to another place, you can say, "It \_\_\_\_\_."
3. that a group of men looking for women is like a band of primitive people looking for animal prey, you can call it a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. that something adds support to something else, you can refer to it as the \_\_\_\_\_, the wooden supports added to a building's foundation.
5. that someone is so exhausted from overwork that she is like a house where there was a bad fire, you can say the person is \_\_\_\_\_.
6. that someone has a bad attitude and is always looking for a fight, you can say he has a \_\_\_\_\_, like a boy who puts a piece of wood on his shoulder and dares other boys to knock it off.
7. that the military hierarchy is like a length of metal rings fastened together, you can call it the \_\_\_\_\_ of command.
8. that some soldiers are like rodents who never leave the dark safety of their building, you can call them \_\_\_\_\_.

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## LET'S JOIN THE ROUNDTABLE.

“Today we have a group of former and active-duty military people here to talk to us,” Anne says.

“Welcome,” Sun-ok says. “Despite the occasional protests, I think most South Koreans want the U.S. troops here to protect us.”

After greetings are exchanged, Anne says, “I understand that you ‘linguists,’ or language specialists, can’t talk about your military duties, but maybe you could tell us in general terms about how you happened to come here and what it’s like being in the U.S. military in Korea or a Korean assigned to the U.S. military. Adrian?”

### Reading task:

1. How did the service members feel about learning to speak Korean?
2. What were their first impressions of Korea?



*First learn the language, then what?*

Adrian begins, “When I first joined the army, I took the Defense Language Aptitude Battery, which tests your ability to learn a foreign language. I was assigned to learn Korean. Actually, I would have preferred a language which would have been better for getting civilian employment, like Japanese or Arabic or Chinese—the other three in the difficult languages category. After I had finished my interrogation training and had spent a couple of years in the Special Forces, I decided that, as long as I had invested several years in learning about Korea, I ought to at least come here and find out what it was all about.” Adrian gives Bruce a glance that suggests he should continue.

“My experience was different,” Bruce says. “During my year of studies, I found out a lot about Korea. I was very excited about coming here. Forty-five minutes after arriving at the Osan Air Force Base in

Songtan, I had found my linguist friends and was down in a bar being initiated into the group. Some people started talking what seemed to be fluent Korean to Koreans. That blew me away. I decided, ‘I am going to be just like them. This is the neatest thing I’ve ever seen—ever.’ In language school I had been a B+ student at best, but I went back over my course work and relearned all the Korean that I could, and I picked up more on the street.”

Steve shakes his head. “When I got on the plane for Seoul, I was excited because I figured I’d studied Korean for an entire year so I’d be able to speak with Koreans. I got off the airplane at Kimpo, and someone started speaking rapidly to me, and it was completely incomprehensible. That was possibly one of my most down days—in my life. I discovered later that nothing worked like total immersion in the language.”

Adrian nods. “I was surprised that it took me a long time to feel comfortable here. My language skills had deteriorated since I graduated, and I felt very out of place. My teachers had told me that Koreans were formal and polite, which was certainly not my experience. In places like Thailand, people are very relaxed, and I think almost anyone could go there and feel comfortable. But in Seoul the pushing and staring and strange comments made me very uncomfortable. However, I was fortunate enough to find some old classmates who had lived here for fairly extensive periods of time, like Steve here. They took me around to interesting places. So I started getting out of town and seeing things, and I gradually learned to ignore the fact that everyone was staring at me. Then my Korean got a lot better, I made some Korean friends, and I started finding out a few things.”

**Reading task:**

3. What kinds of changes did the men have to make after they came to Korea?

*Revelations*

Steve grins back at Adrian. “Like what?”

“I found that if you have any capacity for introspection, you can find out a lot about yourself when you live in a foreign situation. Until I experienced the crowding on the subways, it had never occurred to me to question my ideas about my body and my personal space. I’ve always thought that the way I responded to things was the human, natural way to respond to them. The longer I’ve been in Korea the more I’ve realized those things are culturally conditioned. Mine wasn’t so much a human response as a white, middle-class, American response. The more I saw about myself, the more surprised I was. I think there are probably a number of foreign cultures which could have taught me, maybe not exactly the same lessons, but something similar.”

“Bruce?”

Bruce rubs his chin as he says, “At first I thought that being a G.I. in a foreign country was a good excuse for a lot of stupid behavior, like being drunk in public. I made the mistake of thinking people would say, ‘Poor guy, he’s missing home,’ and understand. People seemed to be tolerant of inexcusable behavior. After many lonely months, I eventually woke up to the fact that I was acting like an ugly American, and that I felt guilty about my behavior. So I became a nice guy and started hanging out with nice guys. I found out then that we could fit in, and the Korean people loved us if we tried a little bit.”

**Reading task:**

4. What kind of experience did Bang-ho have with the Americans he worked with?
5. How did he change the stereotype of K.A.T.U.S.A.'s—at least with one person?

*How good is it?*

Anne turns to Bang-ho. “As a K.A.T.U.S.A., a Korean Augmentee to the U.S. Army, you were assigned to the same unit Steve and Adrian were in, although not at the same time. What was your experience like?”

Bang-ho begins speaking rather hesitantly, then loses his reserve as he gets into his story. “After basic training, I went through special training for K.A.T.U.S.A. soldiers at Camp Humphreys. I had never talked with Americans before, and I didn’t know if I would be able to make myself understood. The training was done by both Korean and American soldiers. They taught us everything from how to do ceremonies to how to eat steak with a knife and fork. I discovered that I could get along with Americans. I really didn’t have any conflict with them. The Americans in my workplace were always very kind. As soon as I arrived at the unit, I needed a few days off because my father had died. That was no problem. They always took good care of me.”



“I suppose you found the DLI graduates spoke pretty good Korean,” Tom remarks.

“Actually, the interrogation unit had its own Korean school with teachers from Yonsei University. Some soldiers even spent more than a year studying Korean at Yonsei.”

“You went to Yonsei, didn’t you, Adrian?”

Adrian nods, and Bang-ho continues. “While I was in the unit, there was a competition, a Korean speech contest for American soldiers. A lot of soldiers participated, and I was very surprised at their proficiency. I thought their Korean was perfect.” He stops at the laughter that goes around the table.

*A stereotype*

Bang-ho continues, “There’s a stereotype of K.A.T.U.S.A. soldiers as not very smart. This is based on their poor English. People think all K.A.T.U.S.A.’s are alike. But actually, in the past there was a difference between those who applied to be K.A.T.U.S.A.’s—like myself—and those who were drafted, who often didn’t even understand why they were there. Now the government is selecting all K.A.T.U.S.A. soldiers from those that apply and take the test. The competition is actually quite stiff.”

“What’s on the test?”

“When I took it, it was English, ethics, and Korean history. But they’ve changed it now. You have to take the T.O.I.E.C. (Test of English for International Communication), which I think is very funny.”

“This stereotype didn’t extend to your workplace, did it?”

Bang-ho nods. “Yes, it did. After I had been working there for a while, my supervisor told me that he had changed his thinking about K.A.T.U.S.A.’s because of me.”

He could see that I worked very hard and always tried my best. He had thought that K.A.T.U.S.A. soldiers were lazy and had no motivation.”

Steve says sympathetically to Bang-ho, “Everyone has something against the K.A.T.U.S.A.’s. The Korean military people are jealous because a K.A.T.U.S.A. lives like an American soldier. At the end of the work day, he puts on his civilian clothes, and he can do what he wants. On the other hand, they still only make a little over 10,000 won a month, like all the other Korean soldiers. Then the Americans are jealous because the K.A.T.U.S.A.’s get both Korean and American holidays off.”

“But that shouldn’t be a problem,” Bang-ho protests. “The K.A.T.U.S.A.’s only have fifteen days off a year. I think the Americans need to understand that the K.A.T.U.S.A.’s didn’t want to be in the military. They’re in the military against their will. It’s very different in the American all-volunteer army.

Tom says, “Back in the days of the draft, feelings among American soldiers were very different than they are now.”

**Reading task:**

6. What description do you get of the Osan Air Force Base?
7. How are the soldiers at Yongsan described? Are they in culture shock?

*Morale, stress and a sense of mission*

Sun-ok looks at Bruce. “You’ve been here a long time. You must like it here—or do you feel stuck?”

“Oh, no, I like it. It’s been my experience that there’s a special camaraderie in Korea unmatched in other U.S. military bases in the world. In Songtan, I’ve been out on the town with people in my unit here—maybe seventy to eighty people from the commander down to the lowest airman, all together, just having a grand old time. I think it’s a matter of being mutually supportive in a difficult situation. A lot of people miss their wives and kids. Talking about this is good therapy for them. In order to make the year tolerable, people get rid of personality conflicts. The airmen at the base in Osan are absolutely inseparable, and sometimes they take the closeness home with them. For example, there’s a softball team in the States named after a unit at Osan.”

Adrian shakes his head. “Yeah, I know that there’s great morale in your unit, but I’m sure that’s unusual. People are under a lot of pressure here. It’s called a “hardship tour,” which means a lot more than not being able to bring your wife over or have a car. Just being in a foreign culture can be very stressful. You see some people having a really tough time. If they have problems, the problems get worse—gambling, drinking, infidelity, mental health, nervous breakdowns. People act out a lot more, and the army lets them.”

“Why?”

Bruce answers, “I think that’s overstating things a little. In Korea the chain of command is not as strict as it is in the States about things like wearing a neat uniform and a fresh haircut. Here everyone is more concerned about the mission and can clearly see the enemy up in the North. That’s a really strong part of the environment. For instance, at the fighter wings down at Osan, mechanics are preparing aircraft for eminent combat. They have something you don’t find with the mechanics stationed in Utah.”

“You mean, they’re more serious about their work?”

Bruce shrugs. “Yeah, the guys in Utah are not preparing for possible attacks from California.”

### *The military ghetto*

Anne says, “You guys speak Korean, and you have Korean friends. What’s it like for the more typical military person here?”

Bruce nods at her. “The attitude of service members toward Koreans seems to depend on how much they get off the base. In a Yongsan army unit where a lot of people live off-post, there is a lot more acceptance and a lot more awareness of Korean people and culture. But in a unit where everybody’s in the barracks, the so-called ‘barracks rats’ are easily prejudiced by what they hear. You’ll overhear someone say, ‘Hey, Joe’s been here for nine months. He knows everything.’ If Joe’s got a bad attitude—which he probably does because he’s in the barracks and he’s only been here for nine months—then the others are going to pick it up.”

Anne looks at Bang-ho. “What do you think, Bang-ho?”

“Well, in my barracks, there were some soldiers who were very interested and wanted to experience as much as possible. Sometimes I took them out and showed them around, and we ate in a Korean restaurant. But most of the American soldiers never went out. All they did on the weekends was sit in the barracks, listen to music, and drink. They might go to a bar, but they had little contact with ordinary Korean life. I thought they were missing a valuable opportunity to learn about another culture. There were lots of Koreans on the base, so they could have gotten to know people if they’d wanted to.”

Tom adds, “Obviously, all those shorts about Korean culture that you see on A.F.K.N. (American Forces Korea Network) are designed stimulate interest in getting off the post and out into the real world.”

“But there’s a strong barrier,” Steve remarks.

Tom nods. “I remember some years ago walking by a demonstration outside one of the gates at Yongsan. The students were yelling at the soldiers, ‘Yankee, go home,’ and the soldiers on the other side of the gate were yelling back, ‘Send me, send me!’”

### *Preparation in language and culture*

Anne says, “You know, one of the things that has bothered me is that the U.S. troops don’t seem to be totally prepared for their so-called ‘host country.’”

Bruce responds, “No, when I first got here, there was a cultural awareness training session for everyone on their first duty assignment. I thought the training was good, even if it was short. I’d already had a year of this training in language school, and I’d spent three weeks downtown in Songtan, but they presented some stuff that was new to me. The problem is not the lack of preparation. The problem is that people still believe Joe in the barracks. They sit through those classes and they think, ‘This is nonsense. This is what they want me to think, but I’m going to believe what Joe tells me because he knows more.’”

### *Fear of the unknown*

Steve says, “I find myself being really embarrassed when I see a group of guys on their way to Itaewon, acting as if each of them had a chip on his shoulder about being American.”

“Well,” Sun-ok replies apologetically, “a lot of Koreans are not very friendly to foreigners.”

“Keep in mind that most of the boys and girls that come over here to Korea, the young enlisted people, have hardly been out of their small town in North Carolina or Minnesota or Iowa—wherever. Here they’re exposed to a totally different way of life in one of the largest cities in the world. I don’t think they can deal with it. When I came here I felt a sort of ‘siege mentality’ on post.”

Anne explains says to Sun-ok, “That means people act as if the base is under attack and they can’t get out.”

“Sorry,” Steve continues. “I’ll explain. A lot of people are afraid to go out and experience things, partly because of the language, partly because the people and culture seem so different. Not all of the U.S. is culturally diverse. Where I grew up, Minnesota, is also fairly homogeneous—the land of the white Scandinavian.”

**Reading task:**

8. What was Steve’s experience with culture shock?



*Daily culture shock*

“You must have liked it here. You’re out of the army now and back as a civilian English teacher.”

Steve nods. “I had to adjust. When I came over the first time I had to get used to being a racial minority. I was working primarily with Koreans, not with the rest of the U.S. military. However, I was living in the barracks with Americans. So I was going through kind of a culture shock every day. I was a 29-year-old P.F.C. at the time.”

“Private First Class,” Anne explains to Sun-ok, “which is a fairly low rank.”

“Yes, thanks,” Steve says to Anne. “I had to behave a certain way with the Koreans, being deferential both to age and seniority, but

when I got back to the post, I had to defer to 23 and 24-year-old sergeants. On the U.S. side there was no deference to age, just position. Then there was a sort of silent politeness among Koreans in the working environment, but the American environment was much more casual. My posture would be different. My gestures would be different. There’s not such obvious deference in everything you do. I would work with Korean military officers during the day, and at night I’d come back and live in the barracks. It was kind of confusing at times. I didn’t know what was right and what was wrong anymore, you know?”

“You were going through the same sort of thing Adrian mentioned earlier,” Sun-ok comments.

*Loss of individuality*

“Yeah. There were times when I thought the Koreans had the right idea, and there were times when I thought they were complete idiots.”

At Sun-ok’s startled look, Steve adds, “I’ve learned a lot since then. The hardest thing about living in Korea for me has to do with individuality. When I was growing up, my parents always said, ‘Be who you are, be free, we love you for who you are.’ On the U.S. army post—as long as I did my job, kept my hair short and my uniform pressed—what I did on my own time was OK. But Korean society is different. Here I am part of the group, and I always have to remember that.”

“That’s right.”

“There were times when the cultures were complete opposites,” Steve says. “My Korean military buddies would take me out to a nightclub, and they would want to dance with me.”

“Right. Men don’t dance with men in the States—not in straight clubs.”

“The Korean idea is that you go out to become close to the people you came with. You are not there to meet anyone else. But an American man goes to a nightclub to have a good time and to meet a woman. The other guys are just part of the hunting party. Anyway, my Korean buddies could not understand my behavior. I would be dancing with about four or five of them, and some sweet young thing on the other side of the dance floor would look at me and smile. As I would move toward her, I would find five sets of hands pulling me back. I would try to explain, ‘Guys, you don’t get it, do you? Look at her.’ They would say, ‘You don’t get it, Steve, do you?’ In the barracks, the Americans would come home from a club, maybe with a buddy or two. Through an open doorway, they would see ten or fifteen K.A.T.U.S.A.’s sitting around in a circle, drunk, with their arms around each other. They would get the wrong idea, and there would be kind of an uneasy feeling. They would think, ‘I don’t understand these people.’ The Koreans would not understand why the Americans would not be part of a group.”

“Of course.”

“The drinking culture is totally different. Koreans drink to become a group, to feel comfortable with each other, to foster togetherness. Your friend pours you a drink, and you are obliged to pour him a drink and that way everybody is involved.” Steve pauses. “Some of you know that I no longer drink or smoke for health reasons. In the West this is much easier. Here you have to accept a drink, although you don’t have to drink it, you just have to offer a toast. I’ve also been told that even though I don’t smoke anymore, if I’m offered a cigarette and everyone else is smoking, I have to take the cigarette.”

### *Different hierarchies*

Steve looks at Bang-ho and says, “One of the things that was the hardest for me to understand was seeing the young K.A.T.U.S.A., the private who has just come out of basic training, basically become the slave of the sergeant, who’s happy to have his turn to tyrannize someone. We would stick up for the young K.A.T.U.S.A.’s. I’d tell the Korean sergeants, ‘Don’t steal Private Kim’s *ramyon*. Why are you making Private Kim shine your boots?’ And the response I got was, ‘Mind your own business. This is the way we do things.’”

“Well, that’s a bad way of treating people, but it’s more common among the sergeants than among the officers,” Bang-ho responds. “It’s partly the fault of the

system. If I were a sergeant in the U.S. military and had a couple of people under me, I don't think I'd have any trouble being in charge, but in the Korean military, sergeants don't have much authority."

"Ah," Anne says, suddenly understanding. "All the power is at the top."

"That's right," Bang-ho says. "A strict hierarchy exists in both, but I think it works quite differently. In the U.S. armed forces, an officer is like a father. He takes charge, and he really takes care of his subordinates. But in the Korean military, it is impossible for one officer to take care of all his people because there are too many of them. Particularly nowadays, lot of young soldiers don't show respect for the officers. I understand that the young officers might have a hard time controlling their men. It's a serious problem. Also, although most American soldiers seem to be of average intelligence, the senior non-commissioned officers and the officers—who run things—are very smart."

**Reading task:**

9. What is one difference between the Korean and American armies?

*A good experience*

After a pause in the conversation, Sun-ok asks Bang-ho how he would evaluate his experience as a K.A.T.U.S.A. and whether he would recommend it to other university students.

Bang-ho responds, "I think it was worthwhile. That kind of experience can broaden a student's view of foreign people and the outside world. I strongly suggest that Korean students apply for K.A.T.U.S.A. status. I worked with very good people, and I have a very good opinion of the U.S. military. I think it operates very efficiently in some ways."

A surprised laugh interrupts him.

*Preparing for war*

Bang-ho explains, "No, really. It *is* efficient. If a war broke out in Korea, some Korean soldiers could die because of very poor equipment. They don't have enough gas masks, for example."

"Not enough gas masks?"

"They have some, but not enough. But in the U.S. military a lot of emphasis is placed on personal survival, like in the case of biological warfare."

Bruce grins. "The only thing I don't like about being in Korea is that here we have to play war games. That's every six weeks for a week. We have a chemical ensemble—a mask, a steel helmet and a shirt, a pair of pants and a pair of thick gloves—made of fabric with charcoal woven into it to filter out any chemical weapons. It cuts down on your eyesight, your hearing, your dexterity, and it's extremely hot. You have to put it on when you hear the sirens and keep it on until there's an all-clear. You have to completely relearn how to move in the stuff. It's not too bad sitting in an air-conditioned office typing with that thing on, but the guys on the flight line really have it rough."

Anne giggles, "Yeah, Bruce, but that's a really interesting picture of you sitting there typing in your charcoal suit, gloves and helmet. You must look like something out of science fiction."

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## LET'S TEST OURSELVES.

- 1. After a year of intensive study at the Defense Language Institute, Adrian, Bruce and Steve discovered that**
  - a. being able to talk to native speakers can be really exciting.
  - b. the classroom may not prepare you for speaking with native speakers.
  - c. knowing some of the language doesn't prevent culture shock.
  - d. nothing works like total immersion in the language.
  - e. all of the above.
  
- 2. In Seoul subways, Adrian discovered that**
  - a. people are basically the same all over the world.
  - b. the responses he thought were "human" and "natural" were actually culturally conditioned.
  - c. his experiences in Thailand had prepared him for Korea.
  - d. all of the above.
  
- 3. Bang-ho soon discovered that**
  - a. it was difficult for him to eat American food all the time.
  - b. the cultural gap between himself and the Americans was too big for any real understanding.
  - c. he had no problems with the Americans.
  - d. all of the above.
  
- 4. Bang-ho found that the stereotype of the K.A.T.U.S.A.**
  - a. was based on the Korean stereotype in the U.S.—intelligent, talented, hard-working, serious, no sense of humor.
  - b. was based on their poor English.
  - c. was similar to the Korean stereotype of the dumb foreigner.
  - d. all of the above.
  
- 5. According to Bruce and Adrian,**
  - a. there's great morale in some American military units in Korea.
  - b. when people bring their problems overseas, the problems often get worse.
  - c. the military is under a lot of pressure because of the threat from North Korea.
  - d. all of the above.

6. **According to the men at the table,**
  - a. the attitude of the American service members toward Koreans depends on how much contact they have with them.
  - b. the Korean experts in the barracks know Korea pretty well.
  - c. American soldiers are very interested in ancient Korean culture, but not modern Korean technology.
  - d. all of the above.
  
7. **Steve has found that part of the problem comes from the fact that**
  - a. the military police have warned them against contact with demonstrators.
  - b. many of the soldiers are afraid to leave the safety of the army post.
  - c. the American ghetto provides everything the soldiers need.
  - d. all of the above.
  
8. **Steve says that his greatest problem with Korean culture was adjusting to**
  - a. deferring to sergeants who were younger than he was.
  - b. always behaving as part of the group, not as an individual.
  - c. having to be formal all the time.
  - d. all of the above.
  
9. **Bang-ho says the Korean military has problems because**
  - a. the sergeants don't have the authority to control their men.
  - b. each officer is in charge of too many men.
  - c. there's not enough equipment for personal survival.
  - d. all of the above.

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### LET'S TALK ABOUT IT.

1. Describe your first experience speaking English or Korean with a Westerner. Did you feel good about the communication between you? Explain.
2. Adrian and Bruce describe situations in which they suddenly realized their thinking or way of behaving was wrong. Have you ever had this experience? Explain.
3. Were you a K.A.T.U.S.A., or do you know someone who was? Describe this experience.
4. What was the most difficult experience in your life? What would you do to make it easier for yourself and others? Explain.



5. Imagine spending a lot period of time away from your friends and family. What would you do to make the time pass as easily as possible?
6. Have you ever felt isolated from others? Explain.
7. Can you understand the sense of isolation some of these young, small-town boys and girls must feel in a huge city 7,000 miles from home? If you were in this situation, what would you do?
8. Imagine that you are living in a word where age differences are not important. What effect would that have on your daily life? Explain.
9. When you go out, do you like being part of a group or would you prefer to have more individual freedom? Explain.
10. Some Koreans complain about being forced to accept a drink in certain situations. What are your feelings about this? Explain.
11. What have you experienced or heard about the Korean military? Explain.
12. Some Koreans feel that if women want equal rights they should also be willing to be drafted into the military. What do you think? Explain.

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## LET'S LOOK AT KEY CONCEPTS.



1. You are in a crowded subway station waiting to take the train. When the train stops and the door opens, an American exits the train with his arms stretched out on both sides so that no one can get on at the same time. The next man is also an American who does the same thing. How would you explain their behavior and state of mind?

2. In your job on the Eighth Army post at Yongsan, you've met a teacher who also works on the post. When you suggest having dinner some evening, you discover that the teacher has never eaten Korean food, although he or she has lived here for three years. Try to understand what s/he might have been thinking and give as many possible explanations as you can.

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## LET'S ACT IT OUT.

### *Taking orders*

A: (The student who plays this role should stand up and lean over B's desk.) You are a female sergeant in the U.S. Army. One of your subordinates is a young K.A.T.U.S.A., a P.F.C., who seems to have trouble taking orders from a woman, even if it means going against a direct order from a superior. You give him some documents and ask him to make fifteen copies, but he just takes the paperwork, puts it somewhere and goes off to something else. You need the copies. You decide to tell him one more time, and if he doesn't do it, you'll ask a K.A.T.U.S.A. corporal to order him to do it.



B: (The student who plays this role should remain seated.) When you joined the army, you never believed you'd have to take orders from a woman. Now, not only is your American superior giving you work to do, but she's giving you women's work to do. You want to escape from this humiliation any way you can. When the sergeant talks to you, you often tap your foot impatiently and look out the window. Sometimes you argue that you're in the R.O.K. Army so you don't have to take orders from an American.

C: (For an extra student) The student who plays this role should also use some nonverbal way of gaining power.) You are a K.A.T.U.S.A. corporal. This is the third time your American sergeant has told you to deal with this P.F.C. You're tired of it.

---

## LET'S LISTEN.

### *The army way.*

(The first part of the dialogue takes place in Sergeant Smith's office. The second part occurs in the barracks room which Corporal Kim Chul-su, a K.A.T.U.S.A., shares with his American roommate.)

1. The first time the dialogue is played, do not look at your book. Just listen and try to pick up the main idea of the dialogue.
2. Before the dialogue is played a second time, read over these questions.
  - a. Why is Kim Chul-su angry?
  - b. What does Corporal Jones think?
  - c. What cultural differences are illustrated by this dialogue?
  - d. Do you think it's realistic? Why or why not?
  - e. How would you describe Sgt. Smith's tone and language? What about Corporal Kim's? Corporal Jones's?

3. Listen to the dialogue a second time. Then discuss the answers to the questions with your partner.
4. Listen a third time. Discuss the answers with the class.

---

## LET'S LOOK AT COLLOCATIONS.

Exercise 1: Match the adverbs on the left with the adjectives they are likely to be found with. Use each word only once. Most items have more than one right answer.

- |               |       |                  |
|---------------|-------|------------------|
| 1. absolutely | _____ | incomprehensible |
| 2. completely | _____ | inseparable      |
| 3. mutually   | _____ | supportive       |
| 4. totally    | _____ | unprepared       |

Exercise 2: Form noun-adjective combinations and compound nouns by matching the words on the left with the words on the right. Use each word only once.

- |                |       |            |
|----------------|-------|------------|
| 1. active      | _____ | breakdown  |
| 2. basic       | _____ | combat     |
| 3. biological  | _____ | conflict   |
| 4. civilian    | _____ | duty       |
| 5. eminent     | _____ | employment |
| 6. hardship    | _____ | forces     |
| 7. personal    | _____ | health     |
| 8. personality | _____ | space      |
| 9. mental      | _____ | tour       |
| 10. nervous    | _____ | training   |
| 11. special    | _____ | warfare    |

Exercise 3: Form verb-direct object combinations by matching the verbs on the left with the noun phrases on the right.

- |              |       |                |
|--------------|-------|----------------|
| 1. accept    | _____ | a drink        |
| 2. evaluate  | _____ | a toast        |
| 3. exchange  | _____ | an opportunity |
| 4. foster    | _____ | charge         |
| 5. invest    | _____ | greetings      |
| 6. miss      | _____ | his experience |
| 7. offer     | _____ | interest       |
| 8. stimulate | _____ | togetherness   |
| 9. take      | _____ | years          |

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## LET'S LOOK AT ADVERBS.

*What we can learn from this chapter*

In Korean English, you often hear a sentence like this:

**Especially**, I thought the DLI graduates spoke good Korean.

.This sentences is ungrammatical because this type of adverb can't be placed in this position in the sentence. It is also ambiguous. Was the speaker more impressed than the other Koreans? In that case the sentence would be:

I **especially** thought the DLI graduates spoke good Korean.

This sentence is awkward, but it's grammatical, and the meaning is clear. The speaker is likely to mean:

I thought the DLI graduates spoke **especially good** Korean.

Where you put the adverb depends both on what type of adverb it is and on what you want to say.

*Adverbs are the leftover words.*

- The term *adverb* is used as a catch-all term for a meaning word (that is, not a function word) other than a noun, verb or adjective. There are about eight different kinds of adverbs, and some have little in common with each other. The adverbs we'll talk about here describe, give more information about, or comments on a verb, adjective, phrase or clause. They do this by showing how, how much, how often, when, where or why something happens and how the speaker feels about it.
- The position of an adverb in the clause depends on its meaning and function. Some adverbs go in the front of the clause, in the middle (after the subject and auxiliary "have," "be" or modal but before the main verb—unless it is "be" without an auxiliary) or after the verb and verbal complement.

**Honestly**, I **never** meant to hurt you.

I **already** told you.

The K.A.T.U.S.A. began speaking very **rapidly**.

### *Frequency adverbs*

- Adverbs of indefinite frequency or time include the following:

already	later	rarely
eventually	never	recently
ever	often	sometimes
gradually	previously	usually
hardly		
- Frequency adverbs usually occur between subject and verb or after “be,” but they can also occur at the beginning of the clause:

I am **sometimes** late for work.  
I **sometimes** take a taxi to work.  
**Sometimes** I take a taxi to work.

### *Adverbs of time and place*

- Adverbs of time and place usually occur at the end of the clause, but they may occur at the beginning for emphasis:

He studies English **every day**. (Notice *every day* is two words.)  
**Every day** he studies English.

Everything is different **here**.  
**Here** everything is different.

Exercise 1: Read each of the following sentences and indicate with a slash (/) all the places where you would insert the adverb which appears in parentheses.

1. (ever) This is the neatest thing I’ve seen.
2. (later) I discovered that nothing worked like total immersion in the language.
3. (eventually) I woke up to the fact that I was being an ugly American.
4. (never) I had talked with Americans before, and I didn’t know if I would be able to make myself understood.
5. (usually) The barracks rats have little contact with ordinary Koreans.
6. (hardly) The young enlisted people have been out of their small town in North Carolina or Minnesota or Iowa—wherever.
7. (already) I’d had a year of cultural training in language school.

8. (here) They're exposed to a totally different way of life in one of the largest cities in the world.
9. (anymore) I didn't know what was right and what was wrong.
10. (nowadays) A lot of young soldiers don't show respect for the officers.
11. (every day) I was going through a kind of culture shock.
12. (gradually) I learned to ignore the fact that everyone was staring at me.

*Adverbs of degree and focus*

- Adverbs of degree are used before the adjectives, verbs or other adverbs or adverbial phrases which they modify. These quantifiers show how much or to what extent something is true.

This is **really delicious**.

- Adverbs of focus include *even*, *just* and *only*, which occur directly before the word or phrase modified by the adverb.

**Only your** love could make my dreams come true.

**Only your smile** could make me shine.

Exercise 2: Read each of the following sentences and indicate with a slash (/) all the places where you would insert the adverb which appears in parentheses.

1. (very) The Americans in my workplace were always kind.
2. (quite) The competition is stiff.
3. (only) The K.A.T.U.S.A.s have fifteen days off a year.
4. (absolutely) The airmen at the base in Osan are inseparable.
5. (a lot) There is more acceptance and more awareness of Korean people and culture.
6. (totally) The US troops don't seem to be prepared for their so-called "host country."
7. (partly) People are afraid to go out and experience things because of the language and because the people and culture seem so different.
8. (primarily) I was working with Koreans, not with the rest of the US military.
9. (particularly) Nowadays, a lot of young soldiers don't show respect for the officers.
10. (just) The other guys are part of the hunting party.
11. (much) In the West this is easier.

12. (basically) One of the things that was the hardest for me to understand was seeing the young K.A.T.U.S.A. become the slave of the sergeant.
13. (rather) Bang-ho begins speaking hesitantly.
14. (especially) Because he wanted to please the sergeant, the K.A.T.U.S.A. worked hard.

*Adverbs of manner*

- Adverbs of manner are used to show how something happened or the way in which it is done. These adverbs are formed from descriptive adjectives. They tend to occur after the verb (and object or complement, if there is one).

Exercise 3: Rewrite the following items by putting an adverb of manner into the first clause as a substitute for the second clause. You might use these adverbs.

apologetically	hesitantly	sympathetically
differently	mutually	
easily	rapidly	

1. I got off the airplane at Kimpo and someone started speaking to me. He was talking very fast.  

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2. Bang-ho begins speaking, and in doing so he stops to consider his words.  

---
3. I think it's a matter of being supportive in a difficult situation. People need to support each other.  

---
4. Steve says to Bangho, "Everyone has something against the K.A.T.U.S.A.s." He seems to understand Bangho's feelings.  

---
5. In a unit where everybody's in the barracks, people are prejudiced by what they hear. They don't question or resist the influence of this information.  

---
6. Sun-ok replies. She seems to feel sorry.  

---
7. I think it works, but it's not like that.  

---

*Comment adverbs*

- Comment adverbs tend to come at the beginning of a clause, but can also occur in the middle or at the end. They indicate the speaker's attitude about what she or he is about to say—how likely it is, what the speaker thinks of it, or how openly the speaker is going to talk about it.

Exercise 4: **Check your dictionary for the exact meaning of each word in the column on the left.** Then match it with the closest synonym on the right.

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| 1. actually       | a. although I wish this weren't so       |
| 2. apparently     | b. as a matter of fact                   |
| 3. certainly      | c. as everyone can easily see            |
| 4. frankly        | d. beyond a doubt                        |
| 5. generally      | e. from the evidence it seems clear that |
| 6. honestly       | f. I've heard, but I don't quite believe |
| 7. obviously      | g. if I may speak freely                 |
| 8. probably       | h. in all likelihood                     |
| 9. supposedly     | i. in most cases                         |
| 10. unfortunately | j. most of the time and in most ways     |
| 11. usually       | k. to speak the truth as I see it        |

**Note:** The English term is *frankly*, not *frankly speaking*

Exercise 5: For each item substitute a comment adverb for the italicized phrase. Use each word only once.

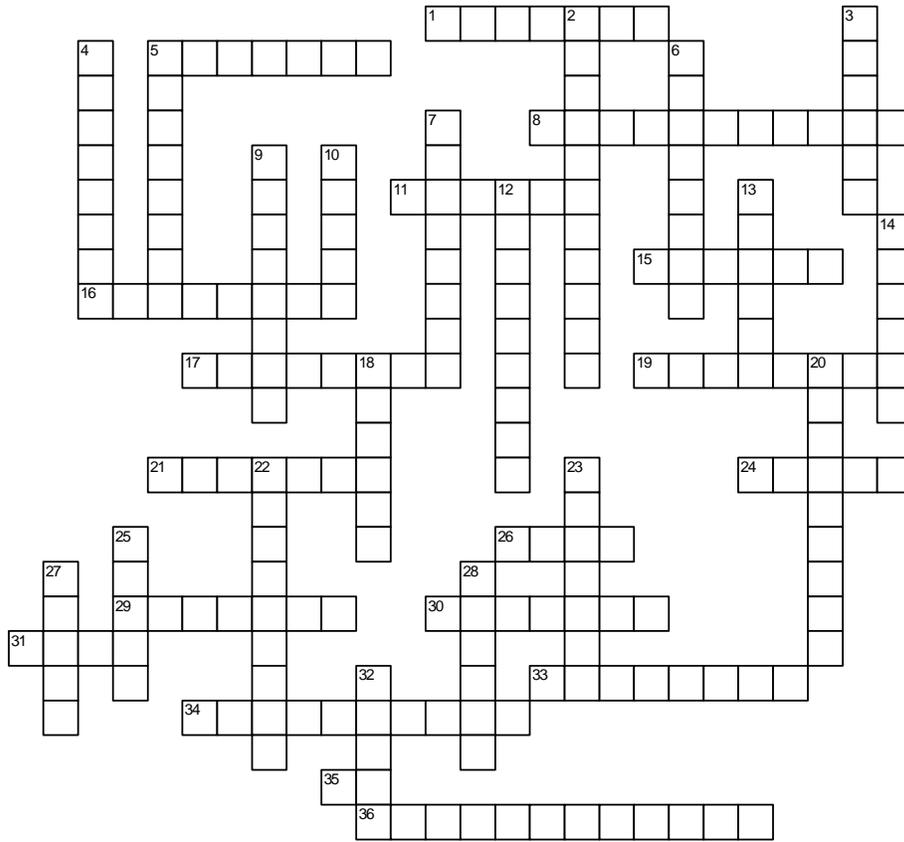
actually  
apparently  
certainly  
frankly

generally  
honestly  
obviously  
probably

supposedly  
unfortunately  
usually

1. \_\_\_\_\_ *As a matter of fact*, I would have preferred a language which would have been better for getting civilian employment.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ My teachers told me that Koreans were formal and polite, which was *beyond a doubt* not my experience.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ I think there are *in all likelihood* a number of foreign cultures which could have taught me that.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ *As everyone can easily see*, Joe has a bad attitude because he's in the barracks and he's only been here for nine months.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ *From the evidence it seems clear that* all those shorts about Korean culture that you see on AFKN are designed to stimulate interest in getting people off the post and out into the real world.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ *Although I wish this weren't so*, we have much less time than I had hoped we would.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ *In most cases*, people feel anxiety about the future, and so they want to be reassured or at least prepared for what's going to happen.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ *If I may speak freely*, it bothers me that we let soldiers get away with behavior they couldn't get away with in the States.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ *I've heard, but I don't quite believe*, three or four times a week someone in the office shows up to work drunk.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ *To speak the truth as I see it*, considering where they came from, I don't expect anything different of them.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ I've gotten too used to Korea—Korean life, Korean people—and *most of the time and in most ways* it has been good to me.

**LET'S DO A CROSSWORD PUZZLE.**



Constructed using Crossword Weaver

**ACROSS**

- 1 Person in the armed forces who has a position of authority
- 5 Full of people
- 8 Good chance
- 11 Sign up for the military
- 15 Abilities, as in language
- 16 Military term for a language specialist
- 17 Senior enlisted person
- 19 Game similar to baseball
- 21 Dispute; war; military
- 24 Fool
- 26 Become a part of something

- 29 The army, air force, navy and marine corps—each is a branch of the \_\_\_\_\_
- 30 Military exercise (two words)
- 31 Entrance to a base or compound, usually connected to a wall or fence
- 33 Way of behaving
- 34 Person who focuses on a particular skill
- 35 US soldier, perhaps short for "government issue"
- 36 Confusion from being in a new place with new rules (two words)

**DOWN**

- 2 What happens when everyone is trying to do better than everyone else
- 3 Area where some people live apart from others
- 4 Staying alive
- 5 Person not in the military
- 6 Housing for military personnel
- 7 Dispute; war; military
- 9 Service members in the army
- 10 Military conscription, forced military service
- 12 Being completely covered by water; total \_\_\_\_\_ in a language
- 13 Head covering for protection
- 14 Spirit of a group
- 18 Service members in the air force
- 20 Feelings and opinions which affect your behavior
- 22 Person from another country; alien
- 23 Low-ranking soldier
- 25 Military areas
- 27 Length of metal consisting of links connected together; \_\_\_\_\_ of command
- 28 Korean Augmentatee to the United States Army
- 32 Elementary, as in \_\_\_\_\_ training