



## LESSON PLAN

# Amazing Military Acronyms

Topic: **Military Acronyms**  
Subject: **English**

Grade Level: **Middle School**  
Time: **50 minutes**

### OBJECTIVE(S):

Students will learn that different communities and groups (such as teens, technology, military, and government) create and communicate using acronyms. They will explore the use of acronyms in the military and experiment with deciphering and creating their own acronyms.

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- "Guess the Military Acronym" worksheet
- "Acronym Tip Sheet" for Teachers
- [www.MilitaryKidsConnect.org](http://www.MilitaryKidsConnect.org) Website (for information gathering only)
- Blackboard or whiteboard with chalk/markers
- This lesson plan is available at [www.militarykidsconnect.org/p/lp/mid](http://www.militarykidsconnect.org/p/lp/mid)

### OTHER RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- Computer with Internet access

## LESSON

### Suggested Activity Setup and Discussion (15 minutes)

- Teacher sets up the activity
  - Write the following phrase on the board and read it aloud:  
FYI, IMO you should send the FAQs to POTUS ASAP, but NLT 5PM
  - Ask if anyone can explain what the sentence means.
  - Circle the acronyms and explain that they are acronyms and define the term: *a word or abbreviation formed from the initial letter or letters of a phrase or term.*
  - Review each acronym and identify what it means.
- Teacher-led discussion about acronyms:
  - Many are used in daily life. Ask for examples and write on the board.
  - Some are so common we may not recognize them as acronyms or know what the letters stand for—such as **Scuba, LED, DVD, or CD-ROM.**
  - Many groups develop acronyms that create a common language (easier, faster) that may be foreign to "outsiders." Examples—Teens, military, government.
  - Ask if any students are familiar with military life or families. Do they know any military acronyms?
  - Provide the following examples—**AWOL, POW, APO, USMC, CONUS**—and see if students can parse them (see "Acronym Tip Sheet"). Discuss how they might be used.

### Group Activity/Worksheet (15 minutes)

- Split students into small groups and distribute "Guess the Military Acronym" worksheet
- Explain the assignment
  - This worksheet contains commonly used military acronyms.
  - Using the hint, try to determine what the letters in each acronym stand for.
  - Have fun and be creative!
- When complete, ask students to share their guesses and provide the correct answer as needed.

**Individual Activity/Worksheet** (15 minutes)

- Individually and for fun, ask each student to create two or three acronyms, and use each in a sentence.
- Read sentences aloud and let students guess the meaning.

**Tip**

- During free time or when assignments are completed, students can search the [MilitaryKidsConnect.org](http://MilitaryKidsConnect.org) site to look for and list military acronyms. This will help familiarize students with the site.

## WORKSHEET

# Guess the Military Acronym

**Instructions:** Below are several military acronyms. Using the hint, try to guess what the letters in each acronym stand for. Write your answers in the blank spaces provided.

**CO** C \_\_\_\_\_ Officer

*Hint: The person in charge*

**POV** P \_\_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle

*Hint: An individual's automobile*

**DEERS** Defense E \_\_\_\_\_ and E \_\_\_\_\_ R \_\_\_\_\_ System

*Hint: The database of all military and family members*

**DoD** Department o \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_

*Hint: The Government agency that oversees the military*

**EFMP** Exceptional F \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ P \_\_\_\_\_

*Hint: A program for family members with special needs*

**FSC** F \_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_ Centers

*Hint: These centers help meet the welfare, morale support, and recreational needs of military families that live off base*

**MFLC** M \_\_\_\_\_ & F \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ Consultant

*Hint: These counselors, often located in schools and on base, support military community members*

**ROTC** R \_\_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ Corps

*Hint: Program to prepare young adults to become military officers*

**PCS** Permanent C \_\_\_\_\_ of S \_\_\_\_\_

*Hint: This is reassignment to a different military installation*

**TDY** T \_\_\_\_\_ Duty \_\_\_\_\_

*Hint: This refers to a service member's short-term work*

## ACRONYM TIP SHEET (TEACHERS)

### General

- ASAP As Soon As Possible
- ATM Automated Teller Machine
- BLT Bacon, Lettuce, Tomato
- BTW By The Way
- CD-ROM Compact Disc-Read Only Memory
- CIA Central Intelligence Agency
- DVD Digital Versatile Disc
- FAQ Frequently Asked Questions
- FYI For Your Information
- IM Instant Message
- MO In My Opinion
- JAM Just A Minute
- JV Junior Varsity
- Laser Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation
- LCD Liquid Crystal Display
- LED Light Emitting Diode
- LOL Laughing Out Loud
- NLT No Later Than
- NIMBY Not In My Backyard
- OJ Orange Juice
- POTUS President of the United States
- PBJ Peanut Butter & Jelly
- PIN Personal Identification Number
- Q&A Question and Answer
- R&R Rest and Relaxation
- RAM Random Access Memory
- Scuba Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus
- SPF Sun Protection Factor
- TBA To Be Announced
- TGIF Thank Goodness It's Friday
- VIP Very Important Person
- WYSIWYG What You See Is What You Get
- ZIP (code) Zone Improvement Plan

## ACRONYM TIP SHEET (TEACHERS)

### Military

- AD Active Duty
- APO Army Post Office
- AWOL Away Without Leave
- CO Commanding Officer
- CONUS Continental United States
- DEERS Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Reporting System
- DoD Department of Defense
- DS Drill Sergeant
- EFMP Exceptional Family Member Program
- FRG Family Readiness Group
- FSC Family Support Center
- GI Government Issue
- MFLC Military & Family Life Consultant
- MP Military Police
- MRE Meals Ready to Eat
- OCONUS Outside the Continental United States
- OPSEC Operational Security
- PCS Permanent Change of Station
- POV Privately Owned Vehicle
- POW Prisoner of War
- ROTC Reserve Officers Training Corps
- TDY Temporary Duty
- USN United States Navy
- USMC United States Marine Corp
- USAF United States Air Force
- USCG United States Coast Guard