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Level 6 – 19th February 2024

Japan relaxes haircut rules to attract army recruits

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

The "short back and sides" haircut is ubiquitous among soldiers, sailors, and airmen and women in armies, navies and air forces worldwide. The Japanese Defence Ministry has just announced it will relax rules for new recruits to have this crewcut style. This is a bid to attract more young people to its ranks. Many companies in Japan are experiencing staff shortages; and the military is no exception. From April this year, new enlistees to Japan's Self Defence Forces (SDF) will be allowed to have longer hair. Men will be able to sport longer hair on top, while female personnel can have long hair, provided it does not interfere with the wearing of a helmet or does not fall below the shoulders.

According to the Kyodo news agency, recruitment experts met last month to discuss how troop numbers could be boosted. Japan's defence forces are up against an ever-dwindling number of young people to recruit from. In addition, they have to compete with businesses who are more aggressively trying to lure new employees. Japan's Defence Minister said: "As our nation faces a serious workforce shortage, we recognize competition with others, including the private sector, to secure talent has been intensifying." He added that the easing of haircut rules would "change or eliminate regulations that lack rationality". In a related move, the ministry is considering allowing people with tattoos to join the SDF.

Sources: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2024/02/17/japan/politics/sdf-recruits-hair-rules/>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-68327068>
<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14944309>

WARM-UPS

1. HAIRCUTS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about haircuts. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

haircut / ubiquitous / soldiers / sailors / air force / staff shortages / helmet / shoulders
recruitment / troop numbers / new employees / private sector / talent / tattoos

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. SHORT HAIR: Students A **strongly** believe short hair is best; Students B **strongly** believe long hair is best. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. HAIR STYLES: What hair styles are best for these jobs? Why? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Hair Style	Why?
Soldier		
Teacher		
Model		
President		
Rock star		
Swimmer		

5. SOLDIER: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "soldier". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. SERVICE: Rank these with your partner. Put the best service jobs at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Soldier
- Sailor
- Fighter pilot
- Bomb disposal
- Coast guard
- Marine
- Police officer
- Prison officer

VOCABULARY MATCHING

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. ubiquitous | a. Something that is not usual, different from the norm. |
| 2. bid (noun) | b. To wear or display something proudly or with confidence. |
| 3. ranks (noun) | c. Something that is found everywhere. |
| 4. exception | d. To get involved in something in a way that disrupts or affects it. |
| 5. sport (verb) | e. An attempt to get or achieve something, like in an auction. |
| 6. personnel | f. Groups or formations of people in organizations. |
| 7. interfere | g. The people who work for a company or organization. |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 8. expert | h. To remove or get rid of something completely. |
| 9. boosted | i. Someone who knows a lot about a certain subject or skill. |
| 10. dwindling | j. Increased or raised; made stronger or better. |
| 11. lure (verb) | k. A specific part or area of something, like a field of work or industry. |
| 12. sector | l. To attract or tempt someone or something. |
| 13. secure (verb) | m. Getting smaller or decreasing gradually. |
| 14. eliminate | n. Succeed in getting something, especially with difficulty. |

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

1. All soldiers around the world must have a very short hair style. **T / F**
2. Companies in Japan are also introducing new rules about hairstyles. **T / F**
3. The new rules on hair length will come into effect from April. **T / F**
4. Women in Japan's military will not need to wear a helmet. **T / F**
5. Experts hope the relaxed hair rules will increase the number of soldiers. **T / F**
6. Businesses are being aggressive to employees with long hair. **T / F**
7. A shortage of workers is one reason behind the relaxed rules. **T / F**
8. Japan's military will also allow people with tattoos to join the forces. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH: (The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 1. ubiquitous | a. remove |
| 2. shortage | b. have on show |
| 3. exception | c. specialists |
| 4. sport | d. omnipresent |
| 5. interfere | e. entice |
| 6. experts | f. lack |
| 7. boosted | g. increased |
| 8. dwindling | h. get in the way |
| 9. lure | i. decreasing |
| 10. eliminate | j. special case |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. ubiquitous | a. staff shortages |
| 2. This is in a bid | b. shortage |
| 3. companies in Japan are experiencing | c. the shoulders |
| 4. Men will be able to sport | d. new employees |
| 5. fall below | e. could be boosted |
| 6. discuss how troop numbers | f. to attract more young people |
| 7. an ever- | g. with tattoos |
| 8. trying to lure | h. among soldiers |
| 9. our nation faces a serious workforce | i. dwindling number |
| 10. allowing people | j. longer hair |

GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

The "short back and sides" haircut is (1) _____ among soldiers, sailors, and airmen and women in armies, (2) _____ and air forces worldwide. The Japanese Defence Ministry has just announced it will relax rules for new (3) _____ to have this crewcut style. This is a bid to attract more young people to its (4) _____. Many companies in Japan are experiencing staff (5) _____; and the military is no exception. From April this year, new enlistees to Japan's Self Defence Forces (SDF) will be allowed to have longer hair. Men will be able to (6) _____ longer hair on top, while female personnel can have long hair, (7) _____ it does not interfere with the wearing of a (8) _____ or does not fall below the shoulders.

sport
navies
ranks
provided
ubiquitous
helmet
recruits
shortages

According to the Kyodo news agency, recruitment (9) _____ met last month to discuss how troop numbers could be (10) _____. Japan's defence forces are up against an ever-(11) _____ number of young people to recruit from. In addition, they have to compete with businesses who are more aggressively trying to (12) _____ new employees. Japan's Defence Minister said: "As our nation faces a serious (13) _____ shortage, we recognize competition with others, including the private (14) _____, to secure talent has been intensifying." He added that the easing of haircut rules would "change or eliminate regulations that (15) _____ rationality". In a related move, the ministry is considering allowing people with (16) _____ to join the SDF.

dwindling
tattoos
workforce
experts
sector
boosted
lure
lack

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

- 1) The "short back and sides" haircut is ubiquitous among soldiers, _____
 - a. sailors, and airmen
 - b. sailors, and dare men
 - c. sailors, and amen
 - d. sailors, and ahem
- 2) The Japanese Defence Ministry has just announced it will relax rules _____
 - a. for new recruits
 - b. for knew recruits
 - c. form new recruits
 - d. four new recruits
- 3) This is in a bid to attract more young people _____
 - a. two its ranks
 - b. twits ranks
 - c. to its ranks
 - d. to its racks
- 4) are experiencing staff shortages; and the military _____
 - a. is no excepting
 - b. is no expecting
 - c. is no exertion
 - d. is no exception
- 5) female personnel can have long hair, provided it _____
 - a. does not inter fear
 - b. does not inter fears
 - c. does not interfere
 - d. does not interfered
- 6) recruitment experts met last month to discuss how troop numbers _____
 - a. could be boosted
 - b. could be boasted
 - c. could be basted
 - d. could be bested
- 7) defence forces are up against an ever-dwindling number of young people _____
 - a. to recruit form
 - b. to recruit farm
 - c. to recruit frame
 - d. to recruit from
- 8) compete with businesses who are more aggressively trying to _____
 - a. allure new employees
 - b. loo new employees
 - c. lair new employees
 - d. lure new employees
- 9) we recognize competition with others, including the private sector, _____
 - a. too secure talent
 - b. to secure talent
 - c. tooth secure talent
 - d. to sequitur talent
- 10) the easing of haircut rules would "change or eliminate regulations _____
 - a. that slack rationality
 - b. that alack rationality
 - c. that lack rationality
 - d. that lacquer rationality

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

The "short (1) _____" haircut is ubiquitous among soldiers, sailors, and airmen and women in armies, navies and (2) _____. The Japanese Defence Ministry has just announced it will relax rules for (3) _____ have this crewcut style. This is a bid to attract more young people to its ranks. Many companies in Japan are experiencing staff shortages; and the military (4) _____. From April this year, new enlistees to Japan's Self Defence Forces (SDF) will be allowed to have longer hair. Men will be able to sport longer hair on top, (5) _____ can have long hair, provided it does (6) _____ the wearing of a helmet or does not fall below the shoulders.

According to the Kyodo news agency, (7) _____ last month to discuss how troop numbers could be boosted. Japan's defence forces are up against an (8) _____ of young people to recruit from. In addition, they have to compete with businesses who are more aggressively trying to (9) _____. Japan's Defence Minister said: "As our nation faces a serious workforce shortage, we recognize competition with others, including the private sector, (10) _____ has been intensifying." He added that the easing of haircut rules would "change or eliminate regulations (11) _____". In a related move, the ministry is considering allowing people with (12) _____ the SDF.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

1. What does the article say is ubiquitous?
2. What does the Japanese Defence Ministry want to attract?
3. What is experiencing staff shortages?
4. When will the new rules regarding hair come onto force?
5. What will Japan's female soldiers have to be careful about wearing?
6. Who met last month to discuss boosting recruit numbers?
7. What are businesses aggressively trying to do?
8. What did Japan's Defence Minister say the nation was facing?
9. What did the Defence Minister say there was competition to secure?
10. Who also might be able to join the SDF in the future?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

- 1) What does the article say is ubiquitous?
 - a) soldiers and sailors
 - b) the short back and sides haircut
 - c) long hair
 - d) wars and conflicts
- 2) What does the Japanese Defence Ministry want to attract?
 - a) the best
 - b) hair stylists
 - c) high school children
 - d) new recruits
- 3) What is experiencing staff shortages?
 - a) many companies in Japan
 - b) recruitment agencies
 - c) army training centres
 - d) the Japanese Defence Ministry
- 4) When will the new rules regarding hair come onto force?
 - a) June
 - b) May
 - c) April
 - d) March
- 5) What will Japan's female soldiers have to be careful about wearing?
 - a) hairclips
 - b) helmets
 - c) ribbons
 - d) hair spray
- 6) Who met last month to discuss boosting recruit numbers?
 - a) soldiers
 - b) the Japanese Defence Ministry
 - c) recruitment experts
 - d) recruits
- 7) What are businesses aggressively trying to do?
 - a) attract soldiers
 - b) make profits
 - c) encourage short hair
 - d) lure new employees
- 8) What did Japan's Defence Minister say the nation was facing?
 - a) a serious staff shortage
 - b) peril
 - c) defence spending cuts
 - d) a budget deficit
- 9) What did the Defence Minister say there was competition to secure?
 - a) talent
 - b) new weapons
 - c) international contracts
 - d) hairdressing scissors
- 10) Who also might be able to join the SDF in the future?
 - a) non-Japanese residents
 - b) people with tattoos
 - c) old people
 - d) high schoolers

ROLE PLAY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

Role A – Soldier

You think a soldier is the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): sailor, fighter pilot or a marine.

Role B – Sailor

You think a sailor is the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): soldier, fighter pilot or a marine.

Role C – Fighter Pilot

You think a fighter pilot is the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): sailor, soldier or a marine.

Role D – Marine

You think a marine is the best job. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their jobs. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): sailor, fighter pilot or soldier.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'army' and 'haircut'.

army	haircut

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• back• style• bid• experiencing• sport• helmet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• discuss• against• compete• lure• secure• move
--	--

HAIRCUTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

Write five GOOD questions about haircuts in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

HAIRCUTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'haircut'?
3. What do you think of your hair style?
4. Do you like getting your hair cut?
5. What different hair styles have you had?
6. Should soldiers have short hair?
7. Why do those in the military have such short hair?
8. Do you think people will join the army if they can have long hair?
9. Would you like to join the military?
10. What are the good things about long and short hair?

Japan relaxes haircut rules to attract army recruits – 19th February 2024
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HAIRCUTS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'army'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. How can countries boost the number of people in their military?
15. Why do we need armies?
16. What are the benefits of joining the military?
17. Does requiring short hair 'lack rationality'?
18. Should people with tattoos be allowed to join the army?
19. What hair style would you really like to have?
20. What questions would you like to ask the recruiters?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

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

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

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

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

The "short back and sides" haircut is (1) _____ among soldiers, sailors, and airmen and women in armies, (2) _____ and air forces worldwide. The Japanese Defence Ministry has just announced it will relax rules for new recruits to have this crewcut style. This is a (3) _____ to attract more young people to its ranks. Many companies in Japan are experiencing staff shortages; and the military is no (4) _____. From April this year, new enlistees to Japan's Self Defence Forces (SDF) will be allowed to have longer hair. Men will be able to (5) _____ longer hair on top, while female personnel can have long hair, provided it does not interfere (6) _____ the wearing of a helmet or does not fall below the shoulders.

According to the Kyodo news agency, recruitment (7) _____ met last month to discuss how troop numbers could be boosted. Japan's defence forces are (8) _____ against an ever-dwindling number of young people to recruit from. In addition, they have to (9) _____ with businesses who are more aggressively trying to (10) _____ new employees. Japan's Defence Minister said: "As our nation faces a serious workforce shortage, we recognize competition with others, including the private sector, to secure talent has been intensifying." He added that the (11) _____ of haircut rules would "change or eliminate regulations that (12) _____ rationality". In a related move, the ministry is considering allowing people with tattoos to join the SDF.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) ubiquitous | (b) ubiquity | (c) utility | (d) utilitarian |
| 2. | (a) navvies | (b) navels | (c) navies | (d) navigates |
| 3. | (a) lid | (b) hid | (c) bid | (d) vid |
| 4. | (a) extension | (b) exertion | (c) acceptance | (d) exception |
| 5. | (a) sport | (b) play | (c) game | (d) pastime |
| 6. | (a) to | (b) with | (c) of | (d) for |
| 7. | (a) expires | (b) expects | (c) expats | (d) experts |
| 8. | (a) in | (b) up | (c) down | (d) of |
| 9. | (a) contest | (b) complete | (c) compete | (d) content |
| 10. | (a) lair | (b) lure | (c) lyre | (d) allure |
| 11. | (a) easel | (b) easier | (c) eased | (d) easing |
| 12. | (a) default | (b) lack | (c) missing | (d) deficient |

SPELLING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

Paragraph 1

1. oqubiutsiu among soldiers
2. armies, eaivsn and air forces
3. staff orgetassh
4. the military is no entxpcioe
5. female leonenspr
6. eirenfret with the wearing of a helmet

Paragraph 2

7. cererimtntu experts
8. an ever-dindinglw number
9. iegylaevssgr trying to lure new employees
10. including the private cstreo
11. change or etnmeial regulations
12. lack itriaotnyla

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () intensifying." He added that the easing of haircut rules would "change or eliminate regulations that lack rationality". In a related
- () According to the Kyodo news agency, recruitment experts met last month to discuss how troop
- () move, the ministry is considering allowing people with tattoos to join the SDF.
- () its ranks. Many companies in Japan are experiencing staff shortages; and the military is no
- () exception. From April this year, new enlistees to Japan's Self Defence Forces (SDF) will be allowed to have
- () longer hair. Men will be able to sport longer hair on top, while female
- () numbers could be boosted. Japan's defence forces are up against an ever-dwindling number of young people to recruit
- (**1**) The "short back and sides" haircut is ubiquitous among soldiers, sailors, and airmen and women in armies, navies
- () from. In addition, they have to compete with businesses who are more aggressively trying to
- () lure new employees. Japan's Defence Minister said: "As our nation faces a serious workforce
- () and air forces worldwide. The Japanese Defence Ministry has just announced it will relax
- () rules for new recruits to have this crewcut style. This is in a bid to attract more young people to
- () personnel can have long hair, provided it does not interfere with the wearing of a helmet or does not fall below the shoulders.
- () shortage, we recognize competition with others, including the private sector, to secure talent has been

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

1. short and sides back The haircut ubiquitous . is
2. recruits . will It for relax new rules
3. It's attract people . a bid in young to
4. be hair . Men to will sport longer able
5. interfere not helmet . with It a wearing does
6. They how troop numbers be discussed boosted . could
7. number an against ever-dwindling young Up of people .
8. new to aggressively are Businesses employees . lure trying
9. shortage . a workforce serious Our nation faces
10. with tattoos join to people SDF . the Allowing

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

The "short back and sides" haircut is *ubiquity / ubiquitous* among soldiers, sailors, and airmen and women in armies, navies and *hair / air* forces worldwide. The Japanese Defence Ministry has just *announced / announcing* it will relax rules for new recruits to have this crewcut *stylish / style*. This is a *bid / bade* to attract more young people to its *ranks / rank*. Many companies in Japan are experiencing staff shortages; and the military is no *exception / expectation*. From April this year, new enlistees to Japan's Self Defence Forces (SDF) will be allowed to have *lengthy / longer* hair. Men will be able to sport longer hair on top, while female *personal / personnel* can have long hair, provided it does not interfere with the *wearing / wear* of a helmet or does not fall below the shoulders.

According to the Kyodo news agency, recruitment *expats / experts* met last month to discuss how troop numbers could be *boasted / boosted*. Japan's defence forces are *up / down* against an ever-dwindling number of young people to recruit *for / from*. In addition, they have to compete with businesses who are more aggressively trying to *lure / cure* new employees. Japan's Defence Minister said: "As our nation faces a *serious / seriously* workforce shortage, we recognize competition with *another / others*, including the private *factor / sector*, to secure talent has been intensifying." He added that the easing of haircut rules would "change or eliminate regulations that *slack / lack* rationality". In a related move, the ministry is considering *allowance / allowing* people with tattoos to join the SDF.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct. Look up the definition of new words.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

Th_ "sh_rt b_ck _nd s_d_s" h__rc_t _s _b_q__t__s
_m_ng s_ld_rs, s__l_rs, _nd __rm_n _nd w_m_n _n
_rm__s, n_v__s _nd __r f_rc_s w_rldw_d_. Th_
J_p_n_s_ D_f_nc_ M_n_stry h_s j_st _nn__nc_d _t w_ll
r_l_x r_l_s f_r n_w r_cr__ts t_ h_v_ th_s cr_wc_t
styl_. Th_s _n _ b_d t_ _ttr_ct m_r_ y__ng p__pl_ t_
_ts r_nks. M_ny c_m_p_n__s _n J_p_n _r_ _xp_r__nc_ng
st_ff sh_rt_g_s; _nd th_ m_l_t_ry _s n_ _xc_pt__n.
Fr_m _pr_l th_s y__r, n_w _nl_st__s t_ J_p_n's S_lf
D_f_nc_ F_rc_s (SDF) w_ll b_ _ll_w_d t_ h_v_ l_ng_r
h__r. M_n w_ll b_ _bl_ t_ sp_rt l_ng_r h__r _n t_p,
wh_l_ f_m_l_ p_rs_nn_l c_n h_v_ l_ng h__r, pr_v_d_d
_t d__s n_t _nt_rf_r_ w_th th_ w__r_ng _f _ h_lm_t
_r d__s n_t f_ll b_l_w th_ sh__ld_rs.

_cc_rdn_g t_ th_ Ky_d_ n_ws _g_ncy, r_cr__tm_nt
_xp_rts m_t l_st m_nth t_ d_sc_ss h_w tr__p n_mb_rs
c__ld b_ b__st_d. J_p_n's d_f_nc_ f_rc_s _r_ _p
_g__nst _n _v_r-dw_ndl_ng n_mb_r _f y__ng p__pl_ t_
r_cr__t fr_m. _n _dd_t__n, th_y h_v_ t_ c_m_p_t_ w_th
b_s_n_ss_s wh_ _r_ m_r_ _ggr_ss_v_ly tryng t_ l_r_
n_w _mpl_y__s. J_p_n's D_f_nc_ M_n_st_r s__d: "_s
__r n_t__n f_c_s _ s_r__s w_rkf_rc_ sh_rt_g_, w_
r_c_gn_z_ c_m_p_t__n w_th _th_rs, _ncl_dng th_
pr_v_t_ s_ct_r, t_ s_cr_ t_l_nt h_s b__n
_nt_ns_fy_ng." H_ _dd_d th_t th_ __s_ng _f h__rc_t
r_l_s w__ld "ch_ng_ _r_l_m_n_t_ r_g_l_t__ns th_t l_ck
r_t__n_l_ty". _n _ r_l_t_d m_v_, th_ m_n_stry _s
c_ns_d_rng _ll_wng p__pl_ w_th t_tt__s t_ j__n th_
SDF.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

the short back and sides haircut is ubiquitous among soldiers sailors and airmen and women in armies navies and air forces worldwide the japanese defence ministry has just announced it will relax rules for new recruits to have this crewcut style this in a bid to attract more young people to its ranks many companies in japan are experiencing staff shortages and the military is no exception from april this year new enlistees to japan's self defence forces sdf will be allowed to have longer hair men will be able to sport longer hair on top while female personnel can have long hair provided it does not interfere with the wearing of a helmet or does not fall below the shoulders according to the kyodo news agency recruitment experts met last month to discuss how troop numbers could be boosted japan's defence forces are up against an ever-dwindling number of young people to recruit from in addition they have to compete with businesses who are more aggressively trying to lure new employees japan's defence minister said as our nation faces a serious workforce shortage we recognize competition with others including the private sector to secure talent has been intensifying he added that the easing of haircut rules would change or eliminate regulations that lack rationality in a related move the ministry is considering allowing people with tattoos to join the sdf

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

The "short back and sides" haircut is ubiquitous among soldiers, sailors, and airmen and women in armies, navies and air forces worldwide. The Japanese Defence Ministry has just announced it will relax rules for new recruits to have this crew cut style. This is in a bid to attract more young people to its ranks. Many companies in Japan are experiencing staff shortages; and the military is no exception. From April this year, new enlistees to Japan's Self Defence Forces (SDF) will be allowed to have longer hair. Men will be able to sport longer hair on top, while female personnel can have long hair, provided it does not interfere with the wearing of a helmet or does not fall below the shoulders. According to the Kyodo news agency, recruitment experts met last month to discuss how troop numbers could be boosted. Japan's defence forces are up against a never-dwindling number of young people to recruit from. In addition, they have to compete with businesses who are more aggressively trying to lure new employees. Japan's Defence Minister said: "As our nation faces a serious workforce shortage, we recognize competition with others, including the private sector, to secure talent has been intensifying." He added that easing of haircut rules would "change or eliminate regulations that lack rationality". In a related move, the ministry is considering allowing people with tattoos to join the SDF.

FREE WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

Write about **haircuts** for 10 minutes. Comment on your partner’s paper.

ACADEMIC WRITING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts.html>

All of us should have very short hair to help save the planet. Discuss.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news story. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. HAIRCUTS: Make a poster about haircuts. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. SHORT HAIRCUTS: Write a magazine article about requiring everyone to have short haircuts to help save the planet. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on haircuts. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your opinions on short haircuts. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

VOCABULARY (p.4)

1. c 2. e 3. f 4. a 5. b 6. g 7. d
8. i 9. j 10. m 11. l 12. k 13. n 14. h

TRUE / FALSE (p.5)

- 1 F 2 F 3 T 4 F 5 T 6 F 7 T 8 F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.5)

1. d	2. f	3. j	4. b	5. h
6. c	7. g	8. i	9. e	10. a

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.9)

- The short back and sides haircut
- New recruits
- Many companies in Japan
- April
- Helmets
- Recruitment experts
- Lure new employees
- A serious staff shortage
- Talent
- People with tattoos

WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER (p.19)

- The short back and sides haircut is ubiquitous.
- It will relax rules for new recruits.
- It's in a bid to attract young people.
- Men will be able to sport longer hair.
- It does not interfere with wearing a helmet.
- They discussed how troop numbers could be boosted.
- Up against an ever-dwindling number of young people.
- Businesses are aggressively trying to lure new employees.
- Our nation faces a serious workforce shortage.
- Allowing people with tattoos to join the SDF.

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.10)

1. b 2. d 3. a 4. c 5. b 6. c 7. d 8. a 9. a 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)