



## Fill in the gaps

### Major-General's Song by Gilbert And Sullivan

...

I am the very (1)\_\_\_\_\_ of a modern Major-General  
I've information vegetable, animal, and mineral  
I know the kings of England  
And I quote the fights historical  
From Marathon to Waterloo, in order categorical  
I'm very well acquainted, too, with matters mathematical  
I understand equations, (2)\_\_\_\_\_ the simple and  
quadratical  
About binomial theorem I'm teeming with a lot o' news  
(Hmm, lot of news.... Got it!)  
With many cheerful facts  
About the square of the hypotenuse  
...

I'm very good at integral and differential calculus  
I know the scientific names of beings animalculous  
In short, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral  
I am the very (3)\_\_\_\_\_ of a modern Major-General  
...

I know our mythic history  
King Arthur's and Sir Caradoc's  
I answer hard acrostics, I've a pretty taste for paradox  
I quote in elegiacs all the crimes of Heliogabalus  
In conics I can floor peculiarities parabolous  
I can tell undoubted  
Raphaels from Gerard Dows and Zoffanies  
I know the croaking chorus  
From The Frogs of Aristophanes  
Then I can hum a fugue  
Of which I've heard the music's din afore  
(Ooh, din afore, din afore... Got it!)  
And whistle all the airs  
From that infernal nonsense Pinafore  
...

Then I can write a washing bill in Babylonian cuneiform  
And tell you every detail of Caractacus's uniform  
In short, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral  
I am the very model of a modern Major-General  
...

In fact  
When I (4)\_\_\_\_\_ (5)\_\_\_\_\_ is meant by "mamelon"  
and "ravelin"  
When I can tell at sight a Mauser rifle from a javelin  
When such affairs as sorties

And surprises I'm (6)\_\_\_\_\_ wary at  
And when I know precisely  
What is meant by "commissariat"  
When I have learnt  
What progress has been made in modern gunnery  
When I know more of tactics (7)\_\_\_\_\_ a novice in a  
nunnery  
In short, when I've a smattering of elemental strategy  
(Oh, that's a hard one, strategy... Got it!)  
You'll say a better Major-General has never sat a-gee  
...

For my military knowledge  
Though I'm plucky and adventury  
Has only been brought down  
To the beginning of the century  
But still, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral  
I am the (8)\_\_\_\_\_ model of a modern Major-General  
...

(One more time?!)  
...

In fact  
When I know what is meant by "mamelon" and "ravelin"  
When I can tell at sight a Mauser rifle from a javelin  
When such affairs as sorties  
And surprises I'm more (9)\_\_\_\_\_ at  
And when I know precisely  
What is meant by "commissariat"  
When I have learnt  
What progress has been made in modern gunnery  
When I know more of tactics than a (10)\_\_\_\_\_ in a  
nunnery  
In short, when I've a smattering of elemental strategy  
You'll say a better Major-General has never rode a horse!  
...

For my military knowledge  
Though I'm plucky and adventury  
Has only been brought down  
To the beginning of the century  
But still, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral  
I am the very model of a modern Major-General!  
...



Answer

1. model
2. both
3. model
4. know
5. what
6. more
7. than
8. very
9. wary
10. novice

**Fill in the gaps**