



## Fill in the gaps

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

...

I am the very model 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, both the simple and quadratical  
About binomial theorem I'm (1)\_\_\_\_\_ 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 model 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 (2)\_\_\_\_\_ all the crimes of  
Heliogabalus  
In conics I can floor peculiarities parabolous  
I can tell undoubted  
Raphael's from Gerard (3)\_\_\_\_\_ and Zoffanies  
I (4)\_\_\_\_\_ 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 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 wary at  
And when I know precisely  
What is (5)\_\_\_\_\_ by "commissariat"  
When I have learnt  
What progress has been made in modern gunnery  
When I know more of tactics than 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 (6)\_\_\_\_\_ 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  
...

(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 wary at  
And (7)\_\_\_\_\_ 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 novice in a nunnery  
In short, when I've a smattering of (8)\_\_\_\_\_  
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 (9)\_\_\_\_\_ of the century  
But still, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral  
I am the very model of a modern Major-General!  
...



Answer

1. teeming
2. elegiacs
3. Dows
4. know
5. meant
6. been
7. when
8. elemental
9. beginning

**Fill in the gaps**