



## 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 (1)\_\_\_\_\_ historical

From Marathon to Waterloo, in order categorical

I'm very well acquainted, too, with matters mathematical

I understand equations, both the (2)\_\_\_\_\_ 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 model of a modern Major-General

...

I know our mythic history

King Arthur's and Sir Caradoc's

I (3)\_\_\_\_\_ 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 (4)\_\_\_\_\_ 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 meant by "commissariat"

When I have learnt

What (5)\_\_\_\_\_ has been made in modern  
gunnery

When I know more of tactics than a (6)\_\_\_\_\_ 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 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 when I (7)\_\_\_\_\_ 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 elemental strategy

You'll say a (8)\_\_\_\_\_ 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 (9)\_\_\_\_\_ model of a modern Major-General!

...



## Fill in the gaps

Answer

1. fights
2. simple
3. answer
4. modern
5. progress
6. novice
7. know
8. better
9. very