

USEFUL LANGUAGE: BATTLES & WEAPONS



Hoplites were citizen-soldiers of Ancient Greek city-states who were primarily **armed with spears and shields**. Their main tactic was the phalanx formation. The hoplites were primarily free citizens who were able to afford the **bronze armor suit and weapons**.

Noun	Verb
invasion	invade
victory	win
battle	fight
siege	besiege
arms	arm
defeat/beat	defeat
destruction	destroy
attack	attack
retreat	retreat
betrayal/treason	betray
defend	defence (BrE)/ defense (AmE)

Hoplites generally received basic **military training**. In 690 BC, the Spartan army adopted a military innovation known as the phalanx formation. This new tactic proved successful during the **Battle of Marathon** in 490 BC, when the Greeks **defeated** the Persians. The Persian **archers and light troops** who fought in the Battle of Marathon failed, in part, because their **bows** were too weak for their **arrows** to penetrate the Greek shields and armor, and their own armor and shields could not stand up to the longer spears and swords of the Greek.

- ✗ If a Spartan soldier was afraid and _____, he was in disgrace. He had to prove his bravery in the next battle.
 - a) fought b) fled c) defeated
- ✗ 'At ease', a soldier rested his spear end on the ground and his shield on his thigh. He sometimes did this to show he wasn't _____ an enemy too.
 - a) scared of b) scared from c) scared with
- ✗ On the march and in battle, orders were given _____ blowing horns and trumpets.
 - a) by b) with c) to
- ✗ Body armour was made from linen cloth, in layers glued together to make a stiff shirt. This was lighter and _____ metal armour.
 - a) cheaper b) cheaper than c) more cheap
- ✗ Spartans did not join the other Greeks to fight at Marathon. They stayed at home to _____ in a religious festival.
 - a) make part b) get part c) take part
- ✗ After a victory, a general gave a shield to a temple _____ the gods. The remains of these victory-shields have been found.
 - a) to thank b) for thank c) thanks for
- ✗ Some of Alexander's Greek soldiers _____ very long spears - over 6m long!.
 - a) carried b) wore c) fetched



The Persian Archer mastered the Persian Bow. Around 4 feet in length, **the bow offered deeper penetrating power**. The Persian foot archers would carry their **quivers** at their hips as opposed to on their backs, allowing for a much quicker draw after each shot fired. The bow is accurate but only at a short distance.

Which word is different?

sword	shield	armour	defeat
archer	arrows	bows	quiver
battle	victory	siege	defend
invade	conquer	defeat	armed
triumph	victory	glory	disgrace

