

1 Weaponry: Pistol



Beretta
M9 pistol

A **pistol** is a **sidearm**. Soldiers can **aim** and fire it with one hand. Pistols are smaller than other firearms, making them useful in **close combat**.

Modern pistols, such as the Beretta M9, are **semi-automatic**. This means that they do not need to be **charged** between rounds.

Officers most often carry **handguns**. In fact, **service pistols** have great symbolic meaning. When a unit is defeated, the **commanding officer** often gives his sidearm to the enemy **commander**. This shows that the unit **surrenders**.



1 What does the passage say about aiming the pistol?

- ☐ A Its size makes it difficult to aim. ☐ B It can be aimed with one hand. ☐ C Semi-automatic pistols are easy to aim. ☐ D It is hard to aim in close combat.

2 What can be inferred about pistols in the past?

- ☐ A They had to be charged between rounds. ☐ B They were less accurate than pistols today. ☐ C They were larger than modern pistols. ☐ D They were given to all members of an army.

3 Giving a pistol to an enemy commander symbolizes ...

- ☐ A the desire to join the enemy. ☐ B competition between military units. ☐ C the surrender of a unit. ☐ D a victory in a battle.

1 Which phrase describes a style of military fighting?

- ☐ A semi-automatic ☐ B commanding officer ☐ C close combat

2 What must a soldier do to a pistol to allow it to fire rounds?

- ☐ A surrender it ☐ B aim it ☐ C charge it

Vocabulary

3 Write a word that is similar in meaning to the underlined part.

1 The soldiers took orders from the person in charge of a military unit.

(_ o _ _ _ _ d _ r)

2 Hostilities in a war cease when one side states that it has lost and will stop combat operations.

(s _ _ _ _ _ _ _)

1

(p _ _ _ _ _)

2

(_ _ d _ a _ _)

3

(_ _ n _ _ _ n)

4

(s _ _ _ _ c _) (_ i _ t _ _)

Listening

5  Listen to a speaker at a weapon manufacturing facility. Fill in the notes.

▶ 0:00 / 0:00  

The M9 Pistol

Round capacity:

Ideal use:

Length:

Weight:

Round:

Soldiers and a pistol with one

*

Weaponry: Rifle 2



The **rifle** is a common military **firearm**. Soldiers **fire** it from the shoulder. It has a built-in **sight**. The **barrel** has twisting grooves on the inside. These spin the **bullet**, improving the weapon's **accuracy** and **range**. In fact, this weapon was named after the technique used to make the barrel: "**rifling**."

At one time, rifles could fire only one **round** at a time.

However, modern semi-automatic **assault rifles** (also called "**assault weapons**") like the M16A2 can fire **multiple-round bursts** with a single pull of the trigger.

- 1 The rifle has a sight that is built in.
- 2 The rifle is named after the technique used to make the trigger.
- 3 Spinning the bullet improves the weapon's rate of fire.
- 4 Today, rifles can fire multiple bullets with one trigger pull.

2 Choose the correct definition for each word.

1 accuracy

- ☐ A the distance a weapon can shoot
- ☐ B a type of firearm
- ☐ C the ability to hit a target
- ☐ D the speed that bullets are fired at

2 automatic

- ☐ A able to fire multiple bullets
- ☐ B able to spin bullets
- ☐ C able to hit targets at long distances
- ☐ D able to be fired from the shoulder

3 burst

- ☐ A a type of bullet
- ☐ B a device used to aim
- ☐ C a rifle that fires many bullets at once
- ☐ D a series of bullets shot with one trigger pull

4 rifling

- ☐ A a firearm with a long barrel
- ☐ B a way to make a firearm barrel
- ☐ C the part of a weapon that makes it fire
- ☐ D a bullet that is shot from a rifle

Vocabulary

3 Choose the word or phrase that is similar in meaning to each given word.

1 rifle

- ☐ A assault weapon
- ☐ B sight
- ☐ C range
- ☐ D barrel

2 round

- ☐ A firearm
- ☐ B burst
- ☐ C bullet
- ☐ D accuracy

Listening

4 Listen to a conversation at a firing range. Choose the key vocabulary that you hear.

▶ 0:00 / 0:00 🔊 ⋮

Select one or more:

- ☐ rifle
- ☐ firearm
- ☐ fire
- ☐ sight
- ☐ barrel
- ☐ bullet
- ☐ accuracy
- ☐ range
- ☐ rifling
- ☐ round
- ☐ assault rifles / weapons
- ☐ multiple-round bursts

Listening

5 Listen again to the conversation. Then complete the answers.

▶ 0:00 / 0:00 🔊 ⋮

1 What type of firearm will the soldier use?

An M16A2 .

2 What does the soldier say is the firearm's range?

The effective is 460 .

3 What does the sergeant instruct Private Barnes to do?

Aim and five into the .

Speaking

6 Talk about rifles. Use the words below to fill in the gaps.

shoulder firearm fire pull of the trigger bullet multiple-round bursts grooves barrel built-in sight

A rifle is a type of . It has a
 and you it
from the . The
's twisting
spin the to make it more accurate. A single
 can produce .