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**Level 5 – 19th February 2024**

## **Japan relaxes haircut rules to attract army recruits**

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<https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts-5.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts-5.html>

The "short back and sides" haircut is common among soldiers, sailors, and airmen and women worldwide. Japan's Defence Ministry has said it will relax rules for recruits to have this short style. This is to attract young people to its ranks. Companies are experiencing staff shortages; and the military is no exception. From April, recruits to Japan's Self Defence Forces (SDF) will be allowed to have longer hair. Men will be able to have longer hair on top, while women can have long hair, as long as it does not interfere with wearing a helmet or is not below the shoulders.

Recruitment experts met last month to discuss how to increase troop numbers. In Japan, there is an ever-dwindling number of young people to recruit from. The military has to compete with businesses who are trying to lure new employees. Japan's Defence Minister said: "As our nation faces a serious workforce shortage, we recognize competition with others, including the private sector, to secure talent has been intensifying." He said the new haircut rules would "change or eliminate regulations that lack rationality". Japan might also allow people with tattoos to join the SDF.

Sources: <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2024/02/17/japan/politics/sdf-recruits-hair-rules/>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-68327068>  
<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14944309>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts-5.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. short back                       | a. wearing a helmet |
| 2. common among                     | b. shoulders        |
| 3. it will relax rules              | c. to its ranks     |
| 4. attract young people             | d. able to          |
| 5. Companies are experiencing staff | e. and sides        |
| 6. Men will be                      | f. shortages        |
| 7. it does not interfere with       | g. soldiers         |
| 8. not below the                    | h. for recruits     |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                                    |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. discuss how to increase troop   | a. lure new employees |
| 2. an ever-                        | b. rationality        |
| 3. trying to                       | c. workforce shortage |
| 4. our nation faces a serious      | d. tattoos to join    |
| 5. the private                     | e. numbers            |
| 6. secure                          | f. dwindling number   |
| 7. eliminate regulations that lack | g. talent             |
| 8. allow people with               | h. sector             |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts-5.html>

The "short (1) \_\_\_\_\_" haircut is common among soldiers, sailors, and airmen and women worldwide. Japan's Defence Ministry has said it will relax (2) \_\_\_\_\_ to have this short style. This is to attract young people (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Companies are experiencing staff shortages; and the military (4) \_\_\_\_\_. From April, recruits to Japan's Self Defence Forces (SDF) will be allowed to have longer hair. Men will (5) \_\_\_\_\_ have longer hair on top, while women can have long hair, as long as it does not interfere with wearing a helmet or is not (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

Recruitment (7) \_\_\_\_\_ month to discuss how to increase troop numbers. In Japan, there is an (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of young people to recruit from. The military has to compete with businesses who are (9) \_\_\_\_\_ new employees. Japan's Defence Minister said: "As our nation faces a (10) \_\_\_\_\_, we recognize competition with others, including the private sector, to secure talent (11) \_\_\_\_\_." He said the new haircut rules would "change or eliminate regulations (12) \_\_\_\_\_". Japan might also allow people with tattoos to join the SDF.

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts-5.html>

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# HAIRCUTS SURVEY

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/2402/240219-army-haircuts-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about haircuts in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

