

K-pop stars BTS to do military service

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Members of one of the world's most popular pop bands will soon be in the army. The South Korean boy band BTS will soon be taking a break from music. The seven band members will be joining the military to do two years of national service. South Korea is one of the few countries

in the world to require men to do military service. All able-bodied men aged between 18 and 28 must serve about two years in the military. This is because technically, South Korea is still at war with North Korea. The two nations never signed a peace treaty after the Korean War ended in 1953. The agency that looks after BTS said the band members want to do their duty. It said: "It's the perfect time and the members of BTS are honoured to serve."

There was a lot of talk in Korea about BTS not doing military service. Many people feel that the band are too important to be taking a break to join the army. Many Koreans view them as national treasures. In 2020, Korea's government said the band could delay their military service until the age of 30. The oldest member, Jin, is currently 29 years old. BTS have brought a lot of worldwide attention to their country. They have also received a lot of praise for speaking out about mental health issues. South Korea's defence minister said it could be possible for the band to perform together while in the army. He said: "There could be a way to give them a chance to practice and perform together."

Sources: bbc.com / theguardian.com / koreaherald.com

Writing

Everyone should have to spend at least a year doing military service. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

pop bands / army / boy bands / music / military / war / peace treaty / duty / serve / talk / important / national treasure / government / delay / praise / attention / chance

True / False

- 1) The K-pop band BTS have formed an army. T / F
- 2) Healthy men in South Korea have to do two years national service. T / F
- 3) Men up to the age of 38 have to do national service in South Korea. T / F
- 4) The agency of BTS said it was not a good time for the band to serve. T / F
- 5) Everyone in South Korea thinks BTS should do military service. T / F
- 6) The oldest BTS member is in his late twenties. T / F
- 7) BTS have pleased people by speaking about mental health issues. T / F
- 8) BTS will not be able to perform together when they are in the army. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. popular | a. play |
| 2. break | b. agreement |
| 3. require | c. ideal |
| 4. treaty | d. darlings |
| 5. perfect | e. well-liked |
| 6. talk | f. approval |
| 7. treasures | g. order |
| 8. praise | h. opportunity |
| 9. perform | i. rest |
| 10. chance | j. chatter |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of military service?
- b) What do you know about BTS?
- c) Should stars like BTS be allowed to avoid military service?
- d) What do you think of boy bands?
- e) What are the good and bad things about military service?
- f) What do you think of working in the military?
- g) Why are BTS so popular worldwide?
- h) What advice do you have for the members of BTS?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. BTS will soon be taking | a. national treasures |
| 2. All able- | b. bodied men |
| 3. The two nations never signed | c. to serve |
| 4. the band members want to do | d. way |
| 5. the members of BTS are honoured | e. their military service |
| 6. Many Koreans view them as | f. a peace treaty |
| 7. the band could delay | g. a lot of praise |
| 8. a lot of worldwide | h. their duty |
| 9. They have also received | i. attention |
| 10. There could be a | j. a break from music |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Why do countries ask people to do military service?
- What do you think of your country's military?
- How can military service help to improve young people?
- Who are your favourite music stars?
- How might military service change the songs of BTS?
- How long should military service be?
- What questions could you like to ask BTS?

Spelling

- the world's most lprpaou pop bands
- two years of ntolaia service
- iruerqe men to do military service
- ahnictctely, South Korea is still at war
- signed a peace ateytr
- BTS are dnuorhoe to serve
- national eetrussa
- edyla their military service
- a lot of worldwide iotetnant
- received a lot of priesa
- mental health sisesu
- practice and rfeporm together

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. i	3. g	4. b	5. c
6. j	7. d	8. f	9. a	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Jazz

You think jazz is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the least enjoyable of these (and why): classical, rap or rock.

Role B – Classical

You think classical is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the least enjoyable of these (and why): jazz, rap or rock.

Role C – Rap

You think rap is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the least enjoyable of these (and why): classical, jazz or rock.

Role D – Rock

You think rock is the best music genre. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their genres. Also, tell the others which is the least enjoyable of these (and why): classical, rap or jazz.

Speaking – Music

Rank these with your partner. Put the best music at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| • K-pop | • Techno |
| • Jazz | • Rock |
| • Classical | • Rap |
| • Folk | • Heavy metal |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 T	3 F	4 F	5 F	6 T	7 T	8 F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.