I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major General
from The Pirates of Penzance

by

ARTHUR S. SULLIVAN

Lyrics by SIR WILLIAM SCHWENK GILBERT

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I AM THE VERY MODEL
OF A MODERN MAJOR-GENERAL

Words by
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Music by
ARTHUR SULLIVAN

Allegro vivace = 96

N.C.

C G7/F C/E G7/F C/E F6 Dm7 C/G G7 C

C

MAJOR-GENERAL

1. I am the very model of a modern Major-General; I've
2. I know our mythic history, King Arthur's, and Sir Caradoc's, I

G7/C

information vegetable, animal, and mineral: I know the kings of England, and I
answer hard acrostics, I've a pretty taste for paradox: I quote, in elegies, all the

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quote the fight! His-tor-i-cal, From Mar-a-thon to Wat-er-loo, in or-der cat-e-gor-i-cal. I'm
crimes of He-lio-gab-a-lus! In con-ies I can floor pe-cu-li-ar-i-ties pa-ra-bol-ous. I can

very well ac-quit-ted, too, with mat-ters mat-h-e-mat-i-cal; I un-der-stand e-qua-tions, both the
tell un-doubt-ed Raph-a-els from Ge-rard Dows and Zoff-a-nes. I know the croak-ing cho-rus from the

sim-ple and quad-rat-i-cal: Ab-out bi-no-mial The-o-rem I'm
"Frogs of Ar-is-to-ph-a-nes!" Then I can hum a fugue, of which I've

teem-ing with a lot o' news, With man-y cheer-ful facts a-bout the
heard the mu-sic's din a-fore, And whis-tle all the airs from that in-
square of the hypotenuse;
fernal nonsense, Pinafore!

CHORUS

With many cheerful facts about the
And whistle all the airs from that in-

G D7 G Fdim/G

square of the hypotenuse, With many cheerful facts about the
fernal nonsense, Pinafore, And whistle all the airs from that in-

G7

square of the hypotenuse, With many cheerful facts about the
fernal nonsense, Pinafore, And whistle all the airs from that in-
I'm then

square of the hypothesis.
fernal nonsense, Pinapinap paved.

C

G7/C

very good at integral and differential calculus;
I can write a washing bill in Babylonian cuneiform, And tell you every detail of Ca-

C G7 C/E G7

beings animalous. But still, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral, I
raccoon's uniform. In short, in matters vegetable, animal, and mineral, I
am the very model of a modern Major-General.

But still, in matters vegetable,

animal, and mineral, He is the very model of a modern Major-General!

In fact, when I know what is meant by
“mam-e-lon” and “rav-e-lin”; 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 progress has been made in modern gunnery; When I know more of tactics than a novice in a nursery; In short, when I’ve a smattering of
el - e - men - tal strat e - gy -

You’ll say a bet - ter Ma - jor - Gen - er - al has nev - er sat a gee.

You’ll say a bet - ter Ma - jor - Gen - er - al has nev - er sat a gee, You’ll say a bet - ter Ma - jor - Gen - er - al has nev - er sat a gee, You’ll
G7

For my

say a better Major-General has never sat a sat a gee.

C

mil-itar-y knowl-edge, tho' I'm pluck-y and ad-ventur-y, Has only been brought down to the be-

G7/C

ginning of the cen-tu-ry. But still, in mat-ters vege-ta-ble, an-i-mal, and min-er-al, I
am the very model of a modern Major-General.

But still, in matters vegetable,

animal and mineral. He is the very model of a modern Major-General.