

# Speak English With Vanessa

Free PDF Worksheet

## War & Peace Vocabulary

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*Dear English Learner,*

*Get ready to speak confidently with these English expressions. I recommend reading these sample sentences out loud and using the blank space on the last page to answer my challenge question using the vocabulary. Thanks so much for learning English with me!*

*Your teacher,  
Vanessa*

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### War Vocabulary

**Allies:** *nations who are friendly with each other*

The United Nations is made up of **allies** who avoid war in order to maintain peace.

**Refugees:** *people fleeing a crisis*

The **refugees** flooded across the border to safety.

**Refugee crisis:** *when a lot of people are forced to move because of war or famine*

The international community is trying to figure out how to solve the **refugee crisis**.

**Civilians:** *a person not in the military or police force*

The **civilians** took up arms to defend their country.

**Innocent people:** *people who are not involved in a conflict*

Thousands of **innocent people** have been killed or injured since the war began.

**Invade:** *when an armed force enters a country to occupy it*

The enemy forces **invaded** the capital city.

**Human rights:** *a right that is believed to belong to every person*

He acted with no regard for basic **human rights**.

**Crisis:** *a time of intense difficulty; often a euphemism for “war”*

Many people blame the government for the **crisis**.

**Violate:** *to not comply with a formal rule or agreement*

He **violated** the rights of the citizens when he ordered the invasion of their country.

**Meddling:** *interfering in something that is not your business or concern*

The United States is often guilty of **meddling** in other country's politics.

**Arms:** *weapons and ammunition*

The war began when they took up **arms** against each other.

**Blockade:** *to block goods, supplies, or people from entering or leaving*

The allied forces formed a **blockade** around the enemy's port, cutting off supply lines.

**Casualties:** *a person killed or injured in war*

The attack caused thousands of **casualties** on both sides.

## Power of Words

**Propaganda:** *slanted or incomplete information used to manipulate and affect morale*

Don't believe all of the **propaganda** distributed by the media.

**Disinformation:** *false information that is intended to manipulate and affect morale*

The media can manipulate audiences with clever **disinformation**.

**Rhetoric:** *language that is used to be persuasive; usually corrupt*

No one believed his dangerous **rhetoric**.

**Dissent:** *having an opinion that goes against the majority or acceptable opinion*

He did everything in his power to suppress political **dissent**.

## War Idioms

**“An act of war”**: *an aggressive act, usually by a military force, which is a threat to peace*

Invading the country was **an act of war**.

**“Cutting ties”**: *to end communication or a relationship*

Many organizations and companies are **cutting ties** over the invasion and violation of human rights.

**“Add fuel to the fire”**: *to cause a conflict to intensify*

Oftentimes the media **adds fuel to the fire** by spreading lies and propaganda.

**“Look for who stands to gain something”**: *who could benefit from a situation*

If you want to know who is supporting this war, **look for who stands to gain something**.

**“High and mighty”**: *acting as though you are without fault*

We can't act so **high and mighty**, we have also caused senseless bloodshed in wars.

“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’”

—Mr. Fred Rogers

## Peace Vocabulary

**Volunteers**: *people who willingly gives their time for something*

**Volunteers** are needed to cook meals and tend to the wounded.

**Relief**: *assistance given to those in special need*

Doctors Without Borders and many other organizations provide **relief** to those affected by war.

**Charitable contributions**: *a gift or payment made to a charity*

Thanks to **charitable contributions**, victims of the war are getting the support and services they so desperately need.

**Donations:** *money or goods given to a cause*

People can help victims of war by making **donations** to organizations that provide relief.

**Humanitarian Aid:** *help given to promote human welfare*

There are many groups sending **humanitarian aid** to the refugees.

**Stability:** *being steady or stable*

The area is finally seeing some **stability** now that the war has ended.

**Peace talks:** *a conversation focused on making peace*

Everyone was relieved when the **peace talks** began.

**Ceasefire:** *an agreement to stop fighting*

Everyone was hopeful when they heard talks of a **ceasefire**.

**Truce:** *an agreement to stop fighting*

The fighters called a **truce** while the leaders met for peace talks.

**Rebuild:** *to build again*

Now that the war is over, the people can work to **rebuild** their cities.

**Reconciliation:** *restoring relations*

It will take time, but hopefully the nations will work towards **reconciliation**.

**Recover:** *to return to a normal state*

It will take a long time for the world to **recover** from this war.

## Peace Idioms

**“To be up in arms”:** *to be upset about something*

People around the world are **up in arms** because we don’t want war.

**“Give you the shirt off their back”:** *someone who is generous to anyone in need*

They would **give you the shirt off their back** if they saw you needed it.

**“Lend a hand”:** *to help someone*

They were always ready **to lend a hand** when they saw someone in need.

**“The light at the end of the tunnel”:** *a bad situation will end soon*

The war has been going on for weeks, but finally we are starting to see **the light at the end of the tunnel**.

## Personal Feelings

**Afraid:** *feeling of fear*

I am so **afraid** about what this war could mean for the world.

**Angry:** *feeling of annoyance, displeasure, hostility*

I am so **angry** that such a small number of people are responsible for thousands of lives being lost or destroyed in this war.

**Anxious:** *worry, unease, nervousness*

I am **anxious** about the threat of nuclear war.

**Confused:** *unable to think clearly*

I am so **confused** about why this war is even happening.

**Depressed:** *severely unhappy, sad, feel like you can't find joy in anything*

Watching the news and scrolling social media too much makes me feel **depressed**.

**Helpless:** *unable to act or have any control*

I feel so **helpless** not being able to do anything to help stop the war.

**Numb:** *a lack of feeling or responsiveness due to too much stress*

I feel **numb** when I think of the long term effects of war.

**Overwhelmed:** *a strong, emotional effect*

I was **overwhelmed** when I learned that citizens of all ages were taking up arms to defend their city.

**Resentment:** *a mixture of disappointment, anger, disgust, fear*

I feel a lot of **resentment** towards the political leaders who have allowed it to come to this.

**Sad:** *feeling or showing sorrow; unhappy*

I feel so **sad** for the innocent victims of this war.

**Scared:** *fearful, frightened*

I am **scared** for the future of the children on both sides of this war.

**Shocked:** *to feel surprised, upset, outraged*

I was **shocked** when I found out the nations were entering into war.

**Stunned:** *to feel shocked to the point where you cannot react*

I was **stunned** when I heard about the invasion.

**I wish I could help.**

**I wish I could do something.**

*This is a common response to feeling overwhelmed and helpless.*

**Hopeful:** *a feeling of optimism for the future*

Despite everything, I am **hopeful** that the resilient people will rebuild and recover after the war.

## **4 ways you can help people in conflict around the world**

1. Donate to Doctors Without Borders: <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>
2. Donate to Save the Children: <https://www.savethechildren.org/>
3. Book a stay at an Airbnb in Ukraine (make sure the stay is owned by a family, not the city): <https://www.airbnb.com/>
4. [Leave a nice comment](#) to encourage people living in a war zone and let them know that we support peace.

## Vanessa's Challenge Question

Use the space below to write a few sentences answering this question: **Over the past few weeks, how have you been feeling about world events?**

Sample answer: *Overall, I have felt pretty anxious and helpless. I wish I could do something. It's hard to imagine the fear and struggle of Ukrainians who are being bombed. I know a lot of people around the world, including civilians in Russia, who are up in arms about this crisis. I hope that we'll see the light at the end of the tunnel soon and peace talks will begin to happen.*

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