

Lesson 24 – War & Peace

When a war begins, we can say that **war has broken out** or **violence has erupted** in the region. When one country officially enters into a state of war, then they have **declared war** on the enemy country.

Sometimes, one country performs a **pre-emptive strike** (*an early attack*) against another – for example, if it suspects that the other country is **stockpiling weapons** (*creating a collection of weapons*) that will be used for a future attack. The other country may view this as an **unprovoked attack** (*an unfair attack without a reason*), and **tensions may rise** until the area is **on the brink of war** – meaning that war is very probable.

Sending in the military is often called **deploying troops**. The soldiers may **be stationed/posted** in a certain area to protect it, or they may **launch an offensive** in which they **storm/invade enemy territory**. When the soldiers begin firing their guns, we say that they **opened fire**.

Unfortunately, the **horrors of war** affect everyone, as innocent people are always **caught in the crossfire** (*in the middle of the violence without participating in it*). Both sides are sure to **suffer civilian casualties** (*when innocent people are injured or killed*) and there will be **collateral damage** to the countries' infrastructure. War also results in many **refugees displaced** by the violence; they may **resettle** in another area or **flee** to another country.

If a particular battle was an important turning point in the war, then it is called a **decisive battle**. Sometimes another country intervenes and helps the two sides **negotiate a truce/ceasefire** (*agree to stop fighting*). If successful, this can **restore peace** – but it may be a **fragile/uneasy peace**. More work will still be needed to **bring stability** to the area and establish a **lasting peace**. Often, **peacekeeping forces** remain in the region to try to **avert war** (*avoid war*).

Lesson 24 – Quiz

Read this news report from the year 3013 and circle the correct word to complete each collocation.

Special report:

Strains / Tensions are rising between the residents of Earth and Mars, causing some to speculate that the **fragile / weak** peace between the two planets may soon come to an end. The latest round of violence **erupted / ruptured** when Martian soldiers **established / stationed** at the Martian embassy on Earth opened **fire / shooting** on a group of Earth residents who were protesting outside the consulate.

Although war has not been **declared / stated**, both planets are ready to react if the other launches an **affront / offensive**. There are rumors that Mars has been **stockpiling / storming** illegal weapons to defend itself from Earth's much better-equipped military.

Diplomats from both planets are doing everything possible to bring **stability / steadiness** to the situation, but there are concerns that radical extremist groups on Earth may be planning an **uneasy / unprovoked** attack for the express purpose of causing a war to **break out / take off**.

Everyone remembers the **hatreds / horrors** of the last interplanetary war, in which the **decisive / determined** battle resulted in hundreds of thousands of civilian **casualties / collateral** and a large number of refugees who **fled / deployed** to the colony on the Moon.

Even after a **ceasefire / crossfire** was negotiated, isolated incidents of violence against Martian citizens brought the two planets to the **brink / edge** of war several times. The president of Earth has authorized the recruitment and training of additional peacekeeping **forces / truces**; however, a **forever / lasting** peace continues to be a complicated issue for our Solar System.