



***"I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones."***

Albert Einstein (1879 – 1955), theoretical physicist

## 1. War & Peace Discussion

1. Which major wars from history do you know about? What caused these wars? What are some current conflicts that are happening in the world? Why are these happening?
2. What are the most common causes of war?
3. Which countries have the most powerful militaries? What makes them powerful?
4. How much does the military contribute to national pride? Is this a good thing or a bad thing?
5. Which countries have a reputation for being warlike? Which countries have a reputation for being peaceful?
6. Which wars has your country been involved in?
7. Are you concerned that your country could be involved in a war in the future? Why might this happen? Would you be willing to fight for your country? What cause would you be willing to fight for?
8. Do you ever watch films about war? Do you have any favourite war movies?

## 2. War & Peace Vocabulary

- **war crime, war criminal** (nouns) – *a violation of the rules of war as defined by international law; someone who has committed a war crime.*
- **winning / the battle for hearts and minds** (noun) – *actions and efforts to appeal to the supporters of the opposing side in a conflict.*
- **military coup** (noun) – *when the military takes power from the government.*
- **civil war** (noun) – *a war between two groups of citizens from the same country, one of which is often the government.*
- **ceasefire** (noun) – *when two sides in a conflict agree to stop fighting for a period of time.*
- **collateral damage** (noun) – *injury or damage to an unintended target; civilian casualties in a conflict.*

Using the vocabulary words above, complete the following sentences (remember to use the correct form of the word, e.g. verb conjugation or plural noun):

1. After the country gained its independence, **civil war** broke out between those who favoured a federal government, and those who favoured a centralised government.
2. Slobodan Milošević, the former president of Serbia, was charged with numerous **war crimes** and crimes against humanity including genocide, ethnic cleansing, extermination, torture, and persecution.
3. The government and the rebels agreed to a **ceasefire** while negotiations take place to resolve the conflict.
4. The president was forced to flee the country after generals staged a **military coup**.
5. There have been reports of **collateral damage** after a bomb was dropped on a hospital by mistake.
6. **Winning/the battle for hearts and minds** will be vital if public support for the insurgents is to be eliminated.

### Polarisation vocabulary comprehension questions

1. What are some of the worst war crimes that have been committed? Do you consider anyone who is free to be a war criminal?
2. What is the best way to win hearts and minds during a military conflict?
3. Can you think of any military coups from history? Why do these happen?
4. Which major civil wars from history can you think of? What are some reasons why civil war might break out?
5. Why might two sides in a conflict agree to a ceasefire? Are ceasefires always the first step in ending a conflict?
6. What can sides in a conflict do to minimise collateral damage? Do military forces or other combatants always try to avoid collateral damage?

### 3. Video: The Rules of War

You are going to watch a video by International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) called "Rules of war (in a nutshell) | The Laws Of War."

**Watch the video here:** <https://youenglishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-war-peace/>

**While you watch the video, answer the following questions:**

#### Multiple choice

1. Since the beginning of humanity, how have people settled disagreements?  
a) *with negotiations*    b) *with guns*    **c) with violence**
2. When was the first Geneva Convention?  
a) 1854    **b) 1864**    c) 1874
3. Whom do the laws of war protect?  
**a) non-combatants**    b) *military personnel*    c) *women and children*
4. When civilians are attacked, this is...  
a) *a civil offence*    **b) a criminal offence**    c) *an economic offence*

#### Sentence completion

5. During a conflict, anything essential for civilians' **survival** must not be destroyed.
6. Civilians have a right to receive the **help** they need.
7. The laws of war ban the **torture** of prisoners of war.
8. Prisoners of war must be provided with food and water and have the right to communicate with **loved ones**.

#### Short answer

9. What do medical workers save under dangerous conditions? **Lives**
10. The rules of war have had to adapt because of advances in what? **Weapons technology**
11. What might replace soldiers in the future? **(Fully autonomous) robots**
12. When does international humanitarian law preserve a minimum of human dignity? **In times of war**

## 4. War & Peace Conversation Questions

1. How can war be prevented? How can current conflicts being fought be resolved?
2. When can war be justified? Is war ever necessary? Would it be justified to declare war to protect people's human rights?
3. Would you prefer your government to cut the budget to the military to fund other areas? If so, what do you think would be a better use for that money?
4. Who makes money from wars? Do these people encourage wars to be fought?
5. How has the way that wars are fought changed from the past? How will wars be fought differently in the future?
6. What will the wars of the future be fought over? What could cause World War 3?
7. What effect has the spread of democracy and globalisation had on the prospects of war? How about the spread of nuclear weapons or other advancements in weapons technology?
8. Do wars happen because human nature is essentially warlike? If so, does this mean we will never live in peace?

## 5. War & Peace Writing Task

Write about your opinion of war and peace. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this lesson. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- Why wars are fought.
- How wars can be prevented or ended.
- What the wars of the future will be fought over.

### **Alternative exam practice question:**

Many people believe that wars should never be fought under any circumstances. Others, however, argue that military action can be justified in certain situations. Discuss both of these views and give your own opinion.