

## War Teacher's Notes – by Lindsay Clandfield

**Level:** Intermediate – Upper Intermediate

**Aims:** Students learn common collocations with war and peace. This lesson, like many other American Vocabulary lessons, has a cultural aim. In this lesson, students learn about six of the most famous wars that America has been involved in, as well as discuss some famous quotes and proverbs related to war and peace.

**Note:** War is a topic not often brought up in the ESL/EFL classroom, and some teachers may be hesitant to use this lesson with their class. The discussion questions have been added to the teachers notes, leaving the worksheet devoid of questions that might lead to friction in class. Still, it is recommended that teachers only use this material with classes they know well.

### Warmer – Wars in the News

Bring in some newspapers into the class (they can be in the students' own language) and ask them to find anything related to war in the news. Give them a time limit (shorter or longer depending if the newspapers are in their own language). What did they find? What do they know about these wars? Do they think that there is too much news about war? Tell them that today's lesson will be about war and peace. You could mention that War and Peace is a famous novel by Leo Tolstoy that Americans often joke about because it is so long!

### Collocations with War

Write the words War and Peace on the board. What words do the students associate with these words? Make a spidergram for each word in groups. The group with the biggest spidergram should come and write it up on the board. Then tell students to do activity one, which gives them more vocabulary about war and peace.

ANSWERS:

1. warhead
2. peacemaker
3. peacekeeper
4. war monument
5. peace dividend
6. war game
7. war torn
8. peace agreement

The two without definitions are war crime/criminal and peace movement. If students don't know the definition, they can look it up using the Macmillan Advanced Dictionary.

### Six American Wars

Explain that the students are going to read about six of the most famous wars that the USA has been involved in over the past 150 years. They can do this exercise alone or in pairs. When they have finished, check back answers in open class. Do the students know anything more about these wars? Are there other "American" wars they can think of and write a definition for?

Alternative procedure: *Don't give the students this part of the worksheet. Instead, read out each one and ask them to write down the war. You can add more details to make it easier or more difficult.*

ANSWERS: The Vietnam War (sometimes called 'Nam); The Civil War; The Gulf War; The Cold War; The Second World War or World War II; The War on Terrorism

### Focus on Prepositions

Students can now insert the correct preposition into the headlines. All of these expressions appeared in the reading above. Tell students to try to do it without looking back. When they have finished, they can then check their answers with the text.

ANSWERS: OUT / AGAINST / ON / OVER / BETWEEN

*Extension:* Ask students to write and/or speak about the headlines.

### Talking War

Ask the students to do this exercise together. They have to match the two halves of the quotations/proverbs about war. When they have finished, check back answers and any other difficult words that came up.

ANSWERS

1.C 2.E 3.F 4.D 5.I 6.A 7.J 8.H 9.B 10.G

### Talking War II (this section is not on the worksheet).

Use these questions to discuss different aspects and views on war. See suggestions below for how to do this.

- \* Does your country have an obligatory military service? If so, is it a good thing?
- \* What have been the most important wars in which your country was involved?
- \* Is there such a thing as a just war?
- \* Are there any American military bases in your country? If so, how do people feel about it?
- \* Do you worry about war? Do you think that there could be a nuclear war?
- \* Do you think that the United States is justified in its war on terrorism?
- \* Has there been a civil war or military coup d'état in your country? What happened?
- \* Do you think it's acceptable for children to play war games?

### Three ways to exploit the discussion questions

1. Copy them onto individual pieces of paper and give each group/pair of students a set. Students take a question at random and ask the rest of the group.
2. Make a copy of all the questions and give one to each group/pair. Students talk about the ones most interesting to them.
3. Same procedure as (1), but include the quotes and proverbs from the worksheet. If a student draws a quote, he/she must give his opinion on it.