Vocabulary - Conflict 2

A series of exercises for non-native speakers of English to practise vocabulary associated with conflict.
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1

How to use this course
How to use this course

Before you start, click on the circles in the sample screen below to find out how to use the course.

Click on the word 'Navigate' to make the course menu appear and again to make it disappear. It displays the course structure and your progress. You can use this menu to move to different parts of the course quickly.

You can jump directly to a page by clicking on it.

Now close this box and click on another circle, or click on next page if this is the last circle.
2 The page indicator shows you how far through the course you are.

Now close this box and click on another circle, or click on next page if this is the last circle.

3 These are the control buttons. The arrow on the left takes you to the previous page, the circular arrow in the middle reloads the current page if you need to read or listen again and the arrow on the right moves to the next page.

Now close this box and click on another circle, or click on next page if this is the last circle.

4 These are the volume controls. Click on the speaker icon to turn sound on and off, or drag the green slider to control sound levels.

Now close this box and click on another circle, or click on next page if this is the last circle.

5 The progress bars show you how far you are through the course and through the current section.

Now close this box and click on another circle, or click on next page if this is the last circle.

6 The title of the course is displayed here.

Now close this box and click on another circle, or click on next page if this is the last circle.
This is the main content area where course content is displayed.

The bar above is the title bar and the bar below the navigation bar.

Now close this box and click on another circle, or click on next page if this is the last circle.
Introduction
These modules are part of a course designed to help non-native speakers of English to learn useful vocabulary and structures associated with journalism. They will also provide reading and listening practice around particular vocabulary topics.

Some modules will focus on vocabulary and others on grammar. We’ll look at topics such as reporting on conflict, diplomacy and business, and study grammatical areas such as reported speech and tenses.

You’ll have a chance to learn new vocabulary in its original context and practise listening and reading using authentic BBC news stories. At the end there is a glossary of vocabulary which gives a list of all of the words, word partnerships and expressions used throughout the module. Have a pen and paper ready to note down your answers and useful vocabulary.

Street-fighting men
3 Vocabulary
As well as learning individual words, we also need to learn which words work well together.

Some word combinations just don't work. Click on the hotspots to find out which collocations we should change.

---

1. We normally talk about **tension(s)** increasing, rather than pressure, in this context.

2. Elite units are referred to as **special forces**, not special soldiers.

3. It's typical to use **to launch** or **to mount an attack**.
4

*On the brink of war* is better than on the edge.

5

*To impose a curfew* sounds better.

6

We might say to fight a war, but *to wage war* is a very strong collocation.
1 Fighting in Georgia’s breakaway region of South Ossetia in August has caused dozens - possibly hundreds - of deaths and widespread destruction. Georgian, Russian and South Ossetian forces are all involved. There have also been clashes in Abkhazia, and Russian attacks on other parts of Georgia. The separatist administrations in South Ossetia and Abkhazia have been trying to gain formal independence since breaking away in the early 1990s. Russia has now recognised them as independent - a move condemned by Western nations. Tensions in both regions began to escalate after Mikhail Saakashvili was elected Georgian president in 2004, on a promise to re-unite the country.

2 Collocations are words which are frequently used together - word partnerships. Knowing which words are often used together can help you to build vocabulary more effectively.

Read this text and then answer the questions on the next page.

3 The town of Gori suffered widespread destruction.
Collocations

Drag and drop the words below to complete the collocations.

All of these collocations were taken from the text you’ve just read about the conflict in Georgia. Can you match the collocations?

a breakaway region
widespread destruction
a separatist administration
formal independence
tensions escalate
The conflicts had remained largely frozen, despite occasional flare-ups, before August 2008. A series of clashes between Georgian and South Ossetian forces in the summer of 2008 prompted Georgia to launch an aerial bombardment and ground attack on South Ossetia on 7 August. Georgian forces controlled the South Ossetian capital, Tskhinvali, for part of the following day. Russia, meanwhile, poured thousands of troops into South Ossetia, and launched bombing raids both over the province and on targets in the rest of Georgia. There have been unverified reports of war crimes on both sides.

Here are some more collocations to practice.

Read this text and then answer the questions on the next page.

A tank destroyed during clashes between Georgian and Ossetian troops.
Collocations

Drag and drop the words below to complete the collocations.

All of these collocations were taken from the text you've just read about the conflict in Georgia. Can you match the collocations?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>war</th>
<th>crimes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>an aerial bombardment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a ground attack</td>
<td>raid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a bombing raid</td>
<td>reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unverified reports</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Collocations

Drag and drop the words below to complete the collocations.

All of these collocations were taken from the texts you've read about the conflict in Georgia. Can you complete the definitions?

When part of a country wants to separate from the rest, it is a breakaway region.

If many properties have been damaged, we could say there is widespread destruction.

If a new country is generally recognised by the international community, it has achieved formal independence.

Until a country is recognised it's better not to use the word 'government'. It is 'a separatist administration'.

When we think that conflict is becoming more likely, we may say 'tensions are escalating'.

Vocabulary - Conflict 2 / Vocabulary
Collocations

Drag and drop the words below to complete the collocations.

All of these collocations were taken from the texts you've read about the conflict in Georgia. Can you complete the definitions?


Atrocities or acts during a conflict which break international law can be called

When aeroplanes drop bombs we call it an aerial bombardment.

An assault using foot soldiers and vehicles is a ground attack.

A less formal way of saying an aerial bombardment is a bombing raid.

If we’re not confident that the news we are receiving is true, we can say there have been

unverified reports.

Vocabulary - Conflict 2 / Vocabulary
4

Listening
The next few pages have exercises to help you to practise your listening in English. You'll need to have speakers for these exercises (and make sure they're turned on!) 

Listen to the audio and then answer the questions on the page.

If you need to listen again, you can click the restart page button (the circular arrow at the bottom of the page).

You can listen as many times as you want.
In this report shortly after a major battle, a journalist is talking about the situation in Sri Lanka.

Choose the best summary of what he says, then click here to see the answer:

A) Government forces are under attack in a town in the central part of the country.
B) A town which had been captured by the rebels is now under the control of government forces.

CORRECT ANSWER: B) A town which had been captured by the rebels is now under the control of government forces.

He says: "The president said the capture of Kilinochchi was an 'unparalleled victory' for government forces" and "The rebels took control of the town ten years ago and made it their administrative headquarters. The capture of Kilinochchi is a central part of the government's strategy, as they who aim to crush the rebels and end their fight for a separate state for Sri Lanka's ethnic Tamil minority."
Choose the best summary of what he says, then click here to see the answer:

A) Government forces are under attack in a town in the central part of the country.
B) A town which had been captured by the rebels is now under the control of government forces.
C) The president has appeared on television saying that the war with the separatist minority is now over.

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa
Sometimes we need to listen to get concrete information - facts and figures, for example.

Listen to this report about the Khyber Pass between Pakistan and Afghanistan and decide how many of the sentences below are true. You can hear the report by clicking on the picture.

A) The Khyber Pass reopened on Friday morning.
B) More than 200 lorries passed through.
C) The pass was open between 11.00 and 16.00.
D) Mr Hayyat said that the operation had been eight per cent successful.
E) Four wanted men were arrested.

CORRECT ANSWERS: A, B and C).
D) is wrong - he said 80 per cent successful.
E) is wrong - 40 were arrested.
Listening for detail

You are going to hear a report about the situation in Gaza. Read the sentences below and decide whether they are true or false.

A) Ehud Olmert says that the military operation in Gaza has nearly finished.
B) The deputy defence minister of Israel has complained that preparations for the operation were weak.
C) Hamas has said it will resist any Israeli attacks.

Answers:
A) False. He says that this was the first of several stages of the operation.
B) False. He says that preparations have been made for weeks of action.
C) True. A spokesman said that Hamas would use "all available means to repel Israel’s assaults".
D) True. "Israel says it is allowing more than 100 trucks into Gaza."
E) True - its navy turned back a boat from Cyprus.

Air strikes in Gaza December 2008

A) Ehud Olmert says that the military operation in Gaza has nearly finished.
B) The deputy defence minister of Israel has complained that preparations for the operation were weak.
C) Hamas has said it will resist any Israeli attacks.
D) Over 100 lorries carrying aid are being allowed into Gaza.
E) Israel refused to allow a boat carrying aid and protestors into Gaza.
True/False

Listen to the speaker and decide if each question is true or false.

You can listen again by clicking the restart page button. Once you've decided, click on each question to see if you were right.

Casualties are increasing.

True. He said "Despite mounting casualties ..."

Israeli attacks are decreasing.

False. He says "There has been no let up ...

There were ground attacks throughout the night.

False. Explosions were heard "on the ground".

Israel wants to end the secret importing of weapons into Gaza.

True. He says they want to find "a way to stop Hamas smuggling weapons into Gaza".
Israel is restricting access to Gaza. Hamas want this to end.

True. He says "Hamas says any ceasefire deal must include an end to Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip."
Collocations

Drag and drop the words below to complete the expressions.

Listen to this description of fighting in Sri Lanka. All of these five expressions are used in the description. Match the words below to form expressions. There might be several possibilities, but what did the newsreader say?

fighter     jets
helicopter  gunships
mortar      fire
supply      lines
air         raids
You've seen all of these expressions - but what do they mean?

Drag and drop the words to the correct place in the text. There is one extra word!

If the number of people being killed or wounded is increasing, you are suffering **mounting** casualties. If you are under constant attack and there are no quiet moments, you might say there has been no **let up** in the assault. Another way of saying to conduct an operation is to **carry out** an operation. If you bring weapons into a country secretly and illegally, it is arms **smuggling**. An attempt to prevent help from reaching an area is a **blockade**.
Did I say that?

Very often journalists have to write a brief summary of what a spokesperson says, so summarising fairly and accurately is a key skill for reporters. Listen to the audio and decide whether what is written below is a fair summary of what Mr. Regev, an Israeli government spokesperson, says. You can listen again by clicking on restart page. Then click on each point to check.

Corridors will be opened for military reasons.

Incorrect - he says they will be opened to help the people of Gaza.

Crossings into Gaza have already been open for some time.

Correct - he says food and medicine has been entering through the crossings.

Food is entering Gaza but not medical supplies.

Incorrect - he says both foodstuffs and medicine have been entering Gaza.

The Israeli army is preventing people from receiving humanitarian aid.

Incorrect - he says it is the combat situation that is preventing the aid from reaching people.
The humanitarian corridors should help with the distribution of aid.

Correct - he says "It's the answer that led those ... to put their hands on the arc of history and bend it once more toward the hope of a better day."
5

Vocabulary
Vocabulary - adjectives

Drag and drop the words to complete the sentences.

Another word for a fire bomb or Molotov cocktail is an **incendiary** device. Homemade bombs are more formally known as **improvised** explosive devices. Unintentional killing or damage is sometimes called **collateral** damage. Troops killed by their own side are victims of **friendly** fire. If someone is executed without due process (a fair trial) it might be termed a **summary** execution.
Vocabulary - word class

Many different words can be made from the root ‘war’. Drag the words to the correct place in the definitions.

A warrior is another name for a fighter or soldier, particularly in previous times. Somebody who is very aggressive and enjoys making war can be described as warlike, or a warmonger. Two ethnic groups who are fighting each other might be described as warring tribes. A territory which has experienced a lot of wars in recent history is war-torn. If you are angry and getting ready for a fight you might be on the warpath. Nuclear weapons may have various warheads - the front part of the missile where the explosives are carried.
Glossary
This is a list of all of the vocabulary used in the module, together with a definition:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a blockade</td>
<td>an attempt to stop people or goods from going in or out of a city/country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a bombing raid</td>
<td>an attack by aircraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a breakaway region</td>
<td>a part of a country that wants to separate from the rest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a casualty</td>
<td>a person injured or killed in a serious accident or war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a ceasefire</td>
<td>an agreement, usually between two armies, to stop fighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a curfew</td>
<td>a rule that everyone must stay at home between particular times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a flare-up</td>
<td>a sudden increase in intensity (of violence)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a ground attack</td>
<td>an attack using foot soldiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a lorry</td>
<td>a truck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a militant</td>
<td>a person who is active, determined and often willing to use force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a military operation</td>
<td>any activity by the armed forces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suicide bombers</td>
<td>people who attack in a way that will result in their own death</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a summary execution</td>
<td>to kill someone without a trial or proper legal proceedings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a warmonger</td>
<td>a politician or leader who is often encouraging a country to go to war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>air raids</td>
<td>attacks by aircraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an aerial</td>
<td>military protection that travels with someone who might be attacked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an attempt to stop people or goods from going in or out of a city/country</td>
<td>an attempt by aircraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a part of a country that wants to separate from the rest</td>
<td>a rule that everyone must stay at home between particular times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a sudden increase in intensity (of violence)</td>
<td>an attack using foot soldiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a person who is active, determined and often willing to use force</td>
<td>any activity by the armed forces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>people who attack in a way that will result in their own death</td>
<td>to kill someone without a trial or proper legal proceedings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a politician or leader who is often encouraging a country to go to war</td>
<td>attacks by aircraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>military protection that travels with someone who might be attacked</td>
<td>military protection that travels with someone who might be attacked</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3 an attempt to stop people or goods from going in or out of a city/country
an attack by aircraft
a part of a country that wants to separate from the rest
a person injured or killed in a serious accident or war
an agreement, usually between two armies, to stop fighting
a rule that everyone must stay at home between particular times
a sudden increase in intensity (of violence)
an attack using foot soldiers
a truck
a person who is active, determined and often willing to use force
any activity by the armed forces
people who attack in a way that will result in their own death
to kill someone without a trial or proper legal proceedings
a politician or leader who is often encouraging a country to go to war
attacks by aircraft
an attack by aircraft
an attack by aircraft
military protection that travels with someone who might be attacked
a homemade bomb
something which you plan to do or achieve
### Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>collateral damage</td>
<td>the unintentional deaths and injuries of people who are not soldiers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>corridors</td>
<td>during a war, routes which are safe to pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>defiant</td>
<td>proudly refusing to obey authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>disarray</td>
<td>the state of being confused and lacking in organisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fighter jets</td>
<td>smaller, faster military aircraft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>friendly fire</td>
<td>during a war, shooting that hits you from your own side, not from the enemy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gratitude</td>
<td>the feeling or quality of being thankful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>headquarters</td>
<td>the main offices of an organisation such as the army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>helicopter gunships</td>
<td>helicopters with heavy weapons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>humanitarian aid</td>
<td>food and supplies to help people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>incendiary</td>
<td>designed to cause fires</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>indefinitely</td>
<td>without a clear time limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mortar fire</td>
<td>explosives which are fired high into the air</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mounting</td>
<td>increasing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>on the brink of war</td>
<td>very close to war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>separatist</td>
<td>people who want independence for an ethnic/religious group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>special forces</td>
<td>the best trained or armed soldiers in the army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>supply lines</td>
<td>the routes along which food and ammunition for an army must travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tension(s)</td>
<td>a feeling of fear or anger between two groups of people who do not trust each other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

1. the unintentional deaths and injuries of people who are not soldiers during a war, routes which are safe to pass proudly refusing to obey authority the state of being confused and lacking in organisation smaller, faster military aircraft during a war, shooting that hits you from your own side, not from the enemy the feeling or quality of being thankful the main offices of an organisation such as the army helicopters with heavy weapons food and supplies to help people designed to cause fires without a clear time limit explosives which are fired high into the air increasing very close to war people who want independence for an ethnic/religious group the best trained or armed soldiers in the army the routes along which food and ammunition for an army must travel a feeling of fear or anger between two groups of people who do not trust each other
### Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to condemn</td>
<td>to criticise something or someone strongly, usually for moral reasons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to crush</td>
<td>to defeat someone completely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to escalate</td>
<td>to make or become greater or more serious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to impose a curfew</td>
<td>to order people to stay inside their houses at particular times of day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to launch an attack</td>
<td>to start an attack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to let up</td>
<td>to stop or improve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to mount an attack</td>
<td>to start an attack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to ply something</td>
<td>to give or sell something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to repel</td>
<td>to force something or someone to move away or stop attacking you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to secure something</td>
<td>to obtain and make sure somewhere is safe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to smuggle</td>
<td>to transport something illegally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to wage war</td>
<td>to fight a war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unparalleled</td>
<td>having no equal; better or greater than any other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>unverified</td>
<td>possibly true but not proved yet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>warlike</td>
<td>often involved in and eager to start wars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>warpath</td>
<td>on the warpath means angry and likely to argue or punish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>warring</td>
<td>at war, fighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>war-torn</td>
<td>severely damaged by a long war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>widespread</td>
<td>found in many places</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Review and pronunciation
1. incendiary
2. an improvised explosive device
3. collateral damage
4. friendly fire
5. summary execution
6. war-torn
7. warring
8. on the warpath
9. warlike
a warmonger
Pronunciation practice: read and repeat

1 separatist

2 unparalleled

3 gratitude

4 headquarters

5 to crush

6 to ply

7 lorries

8 an escort

9 a curfew
10 a militant
11 an objective
12 to secure something
13 indefinitely
14 a military operation
15 an air strike
16 to repel
17 a suicide bomber
18 defiant
19 a casualty
20 a blockade
21 mounting
22 to let up
23 to smuggle
24 a ceasefire
25 disarray
26 fighter jets
27 helicopter gunships
<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>air raids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>supply lines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>mortar fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>mounting casualties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>to carry out an operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>smuggling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>a blockade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>a corridor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>humanitarian aid</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pronunciation practice: read and repeat

1. tension
2. special forces
3. to launch or mount an attack
4. to impose a curfew
5. on the brink of war
6. to wage war
7. a breakaway region
8. widespread
9. separatist
10 to condemn
11 to escalate
12 a flare-up
13 aerial bombardment
14 a ground attack
15 a bombing raid
16 unverified