

## 1 Contemporary issues

Match these issues with the extracts from the newspaper reports:

- |                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| sexual discrimination | drug abuse    |
| teenage pregnancies   | animal rights |
| gay rights            | racism        |
| homelessness          | class         |

1. The Government has expressed concern that the number of school-girls under the age of sixteen becoming pregnant has risen rapidly and Britain now heads the European league table.

5. The Government is becoming worried about the number of teenagers sleeping rough on the streets in London. Many of them are in danger of becoming involved with drugs and prostitution.

2. Statistics show that 20% of teenagers in the area are regularly using heroin. Police believe that at least half of the crime in the area is drug-related.

6. Mrs Fenton claims that she was denied promotion after she told colleagues she was planning to have a baby.

3. The Government wants us to believe that we are living in a classless society but a recent report shows that 45% of people still believe they are working class while only 25% describe themselves as middle class.

7. Cardiff police are investigating after a young black student was attacked by a group of white youths last night. They believe the attack was racially motivated.

4. A number of people were arrested today during a protest outside a laboratory where they say scientists are testing cosmetics on monkeys.

8. Airline steward Alan Paul claims he is being discriminated against on grounds of his sexual orientation. He is demanding the same travel privileges for his gay partner as are available to the husbands and wives of his married colleagues.

Now complete the phrases in green with words from the extracts opposite:

- Politicians say we are living in a . . . . . society.
- More and more young people are sleeping . . . . . on the streets.
- Homeless youngsters can easily become . . . . . with drugs and prostitution.
- Police believe the attack was . . . . . motivated.
- A lot of crime in the area is drug- . . . . .
- Many people believe it is wrong to discriminate against people on the basis of their sexual . . . . .

## 2 Collocations

Match each word on the left with a word on the right:

- |                  |               |
|------------------|---------------|
| 1. race          | a. families   |
| 2. the gay       | b. rights     |
| 3. inner-city    | c. minorities |
| 4. ethnic        | d. relations  |
| 5. human         | e. community  |
| 6. single-parent | f. areas      |

Now use the complete phrases in the following sentences:

- In some countries people are denied basic . . . . . like free speech.
- Community leaders are working to improve . . . . . after a number of recent incidents involving black and white youths.
- Senior police officers, concerned that there are so few black and Asian officers, are hoping that a new campaign will encourage more people from . . . . . to join the force.
- A recent report confirms that schools in . . . . . have the worst exam results.
- Members of the . . . . . have been warned to take extra care after a rise in the number of homophobic attacks in the area.
- Many of our current problems are unfairly blamed on the growing number of . . . . .

## 3 Problems with drugs

Match the verbs on the left with the phrases on the right to make four sentences. Use one of the endings twice.

- |          |                   |             |
|----------|-------------------|-------------|
| Children | are               | drugs.      |
|          | are taking        | with drugs. |
|          | are using         | on drugs.   |
|          | are experimenting |             |

Now use these words to complete the text below:

- |            |          |            |
|------------|----------|------------|
| addicts    | overdose | soft drugs |
| hard drugs | dealers  |            |

A recent report says that in some parts of the city, more than a quarter of young people are regularly using drugs.

Most teenagers start by taking (1) . . . . . like cannabis and marijuana, but many soon begin to experiment with cocaine and heroin. Once they have moved on to (2) . . . . . , they are much more likely to become addicted.

People in the worst affected area say that it's impossible to leave the house without being stopped by (3) . . . . . asking for money to buy drugs or by (4) . . . . . trying to sell them. Last week a 14-year-old boy died from a heroin (5) . . . . .

## 4 What you can do

Choose the correct ending for each sentence:

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. I'm protesting      | a. the petition.  |
| 2. I went on           | b. a demonstration / protest march.                             |
| 3. I'm boycotting      | c. against the new motorway / the arms trade / nuclear weapons. |
| 4. I've already signed | d. them until they pay their workers properly / the meeting.    |

## 5 Taking action

Do these verbs fit in sentence A or B?

- avoid tackle face ignore address

- A. The Government needs to . . . . . the problem.  
B. The Government can't . . . . . the problem.

Now mark each of the expressions below, C or D, depending on which pattern it fits:

- C. The Government needs to . . . . .  
D. The Government can't just . . . . .

- leave things as they are
- do something about it
- hope the problem will go away
- take action
- do nothing
- act now

## 6 Other issues

Use the following words to complete these short descriptions of other social issues:

- trap bullying housing abuse domestic

- We hear a lot today about child . . . . . , but it's not new. In the past people just didn't talk about it.
- One issue which is still a taboo subject in a lot of families is . . . . . violence.
- We don't like to admit it, but there is still far too much sub-standard . . . . . around.
- A major cause of suicide among young people is . . . . . at school.
- Today thousands of people are caught in the poverty . . . . .

# 78 War

## 1 Basic vocabulary

Use your dictionary to translate the words in green:

- Do you have to do military service in your country?
- The conflict in the Middle East is escalating.
- The trouble began with a dispute over territory.
- A bomb exploded in the city centre.
- The United States has been supplying arms to Israel.
- Russia has been supplying them with weapons.
- The Government has called the bombing of civilians an act of terrorism.
- Several soldiers were killed in the fighting.
- More troops arrived in the capital today.

## 2 War and weapons

Which word goes with which list below?

bomb      war      weapons

- nuclear, conventional, chemical, biological
- nuclear, car, petrol, letter
- civil, world, nuclear, guerrilla, global

Use words from above to complete these sentences.

- There have been two . . . . . wars in the past hundred years. Let's hope they were the last.
- The worst kind of war is . . . . . war when neighbours end up killing each other.
- The . . . . . war in the mountainous region of North India shows no sign of ending.
- Thousands of people are suffering from diseases caused by the use of . . . . . and . . . . . weapons during the recent conflict.
- Youths threw rocks and home-made . . . . . bombs at soldiers during last night's fighting.
- A Government official was seriously injured by a . . . . . bomb, which arrived in his post yesterday.

## 3 The armed forces

Write the following nouns in the list where they usually belong:

- |               |                  |             |
|---------------|------------------|-------------|
| cruiser       | submarine        | landmine    |
| rifle         | aircrew          | machine gun |
| grenade       | artillery        | minesweeper |
| bomber        | aircraft carrier | helicopter  |
| soldier       | tank             | parachute   |
| fighter pilot | landing craft    | torpedo     |
| warship       | destroyer        | sailor      |

the army	the navy	the air force

## 4 War verbs

Use the correct form of the verbs below:

- |        |            |         |
|--------|------------|---------|
| supply | clear      | blow up |
| bomb   | shoot down | explode |

- The United States has been . . . . . arms to anti-government troops for years.
- Planes have been . . . . . the city for three days now.
- They . . . . . the bridge in order to cut off the enemy's supply lines.
- The bomb . . . . . as soon as the General started his car.
- It will take years before all the mines have been . . . . . from the area.
- They claim to have . . . . . 5 of our planes.

## 5 The start of a war

Use these words to complete the sentences:

- |              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| ethnic       | attacks   |
| deteriorates | disputes  |
| process      | escalates |
| involved     | force     |

- Most wars are caused by . . . . . over territory by different . . . . . groups.
- Often there are months of small, separate . . . . . before the situation . . . . . and . . . . . into all-out war.
- The international community is usually unwilling to get . . . . . , but in the end it usually has no choice.
- Pressure increases and someone – usually the US – puts together some kind of international . . . . . to try to restore peace.
- It is ironic that as soon as a war starts, so also does the peace . . . . .

## 6 War reporting

Choose the correct ending for each sentence in these reports of a recent conflict:

- The Government has decided to send in
- The invasion was launched
- Rebel troops claim to have taken over
- Several civilians were wounded
- The rebels attacked
- Fighting has spread
- The rebels sought
- The guerrillas have agreed to release
  - the Government television station.
  - ground troops.
  - to neighbouring villages.
  - help from their allies in neighbouring Chad.
  - in the early hours of this morning.
  - two of the hostages unharmed.
  - in the fighting in the city centre.
  - Government forces with grenades and missiles.

## 7 Restoring peace

Use these words to complete the text:

- |              |        |
|--------------|--------|
| ceasefire    | talks  |
| peacekeeping | treaty |
| sides        | deal   |

Three weeks after the United Nations sent a (1) . . . . . force to the area, both sides in the conflict have agreed to a temporary (2) . . . . . while peace (3) . . . . . are held.

A UN spokesperson said that they hoped to negotiate a peace (4) . . . . . in the next few days which would be acceptable to both (5) . . . . . in the conflict. The official added that he was confident that a formal peace (6) . . . . . could be signed before the Presidential elections take place in March.

Now without looking back, complete these common collocations:

- send an international . . . . . force
- agree to a . . . . . ceasefire
- hold peace . . . . .
- negotiate a peace . . . . .
- sign a formal peace . . . . .

*A ceasefire can be temporary or permanent.*

