

Topic 1 **Current Events World**

**1. Vocabulary** (The **MP3** is available online)

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 1. Ref <u>u</u> g <u>ee</u> s  | 6. Pra <u>is</u> ed                        |
| 2. Bor <u>de</u> r             | 7. <u>E</u> f <u>f</u> orts                |
| 3. Ap <u>pl</u> aud <u>e</u> d | 8. Hu <u>ma</u> n <u>i</u> ta <u>ri</u> an |
| 4. Bas <u>ke</u> ts            | 9. A <u>m</u> id                           |
| 5. Car <u>ri</u> ages          | 10. Con <u>ce</u> rn                       |

**2. Definitions and Samples**

	Word	Form	Definition	Example	Usage Tips	Parts of Speech
1	<b>Refugees</b>	<i>n</i>	someone who has been forced to leave a country because of war or for religious or political reasons	Thousands of <b>refugees</b> have fled the area.	Similar to: <u>displaced</u> <u>person, exile,</u> <u>alien</u>	Refugeeism (n) Refuge (n)
2	<b>Border</b>	<i>n</i>	a line separating one country or state from another	He grew up in Malaysia, near the Indonesian <b>border</b> .	Similar to: <u>boundary, line,</u> <u>barrier</u>	Border (v) Border (n)
3	<b>Applauded</b>	<i>v</i>	to strike the hands together over and over to show approval or praise	The audience stood and <b>applauded</b> her performance.	Similar to: <u>cheer, approve,</u> <u>commend</u>	Applaudable (adj) Applaudably (adv) Applauder (n)
4	<b>Baskets</b>	<i>n</i>	a container usually made by weaving together long thin pieces of material	They brought their lunch in a picnic <b>basket</b> .	Similar to: <u>hamper,</u> <u>bassinet, box</u>	Basket (n)
5	<b>Carriages</b>	<i>n</i>	a separate section of a train	I sat in the wrong <b>carriage</b> one time.	Similar to: <u>car</u>	Carriage (n)

	Word	Form	Definition	Example	Synonym	Parts of Speech
6	<b>Praised</b>	<i>v</i>	to say or write good things about (someone or something) : to express approval of (someone or something)	A good teacher <b>praises</b> students when they do well.	Similar to: <u>acclaim</u> , <u>accolade</u> , <u>applause</u>	Praise (n) Praisers (n)
7	<b>Efforts</b>	<i>n</i>	a serious attempt to do something	Our success is due to the combined <b>efforts</b> of many people.	Similar to: <u>achievement</u> , <u>attempt</u> , <u>battle</u>	
8	<b>Humanitarian</b>	<i>adj</i>	a person who works to make other people's lives better	She has been recognized as a great <b>humanitarian</b> for her efforts to end world hunger.	Similar to: <u>altruistic</u> , <u>charitable</u> , <u>humane</u>	Humanitarianism (n)
9	<b>Amid</b>	<i>prep</i>	in or into the middle of (something)	It was hard to hear <b>amid</b> all the cheering.	Similar to: <u>among</u> , <u>amongst</u> , <u>mid</u>	Amidst (prep)
10	<b>Concern</b>	<i>n</i>	a feeling of worry usually shared by many people	I share your <b>concern</b> about these problems.	Similar to: <u>worry</u> , <u>matter</u> , <u>burden</u>	Concern (v)

### 3. Vocabulary Practice

In groups of 3, please respond and discuss your opinions about the following questions or statements.

Please use the underlined word in your response and discussion.

1. Are there any refugees in South Korea?
2. Have you ever been up to the DMZ border? If not, why not?
3. Have you ever applauded something or someone in public? If yes, who/what?
4. What would you put in a picnic basket on a date?
5. Have you ever watched a movie in the movie carriage on a train? If not, why not?
6. When was the last time you were praised for your abilities?
7. Do you make a lot of effort to meet new people?
8. Do you do anything humanitarian, like volunteer or donate to charity?
9. Amid the current situation between North and South Korea, do you think both countries will ever re-unite?
10. What are your big concerns these days?

### 4. Listening & Reading (The *MP3* is available online)

Listen to and read an article about **Europe**.

Germany and Austria welcomed thousands of refugees yesterday after their long walk through Hungary.

The refugees arrived at train stations in Germany and at the Austrian border to crowds of local people who applauded the new arrivals and gave them water, food and clothes. German and Austrian children carried baskets of sweets to give to the children from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries. For many of the refugees, it was the end of a long journey that started in Syria and ended with a long walk

through Hungary. German rail company Deutsche Bahn announced on Saturday that it would be adding extra **carriages** to its trains and was doing "doing everything it can" to help the refugees.

The United Nations (UN) has **praised** Austria and Germany for their **efforts** to welcome and help the refugees. It said: "This is political leadership based on **humanitarian** values." Germany's leader Angela Merkel said her country would welcome all refugees from Syria. Germany is expecting around 800,000 Syrians to arrive this year **amid** continuing uncertainty about the future of Syria. Ms Merkel told reporters that, "as a strong, economically healthy country, we have the strength to do what is necessary." One refugee, a Syrian shopkeeper said: "I'm very glad to be in Germany. I hope that I find a much better life here. I want to work." He expressed **concern** for his family and young children still in Syria.

## 5. Listening and Reading Practice

In **Pairs**, have a short discussion on the following:

- a. What do you think about the refugee crisis in Syria and Europe? Do you know any background information about why this crisis has occurred?

## 6. Conversation Strategies

<p><b>Yes/No Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Do you believe in ...?</i></li><li>• <i>Do you think we should ...?</i></li><li>• <i>Do you think everybody should ...?</i></li><li>• <i>Do you think that ...?</i></li><li>• <i>Would you consider ...?</i></li><li>• <i>Would you ever consider ...?</i></li></ul> <p><b>WH Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>What do you think of ...?</i></li><li>• <i>What do you think is the problem between ... and ...?</i></li><li>• <i>What do you think is the problem with ...?</i></li><li>• <i>What do you think are the causes of ...?</i></li><li>• <i>What are the advantages and disadvantages?</i></li></ul>	<p><b>OR Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Are you for or against ...?</i></li><li>• <i>Would you prefer ...?</i></li><li>• <i>Would you rather ...?</i></li><li>• <i>What is better: - ... or ...?</i></li></ul> <p><b>Negative Yes/No Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Don't they ...?</i></li><li>• <i>Don't you think it's better to ...?</i></li><li>• <i>Don't you understand that ...?</i></li><li>• <i>Don't you see that ...?</i></li><li>• <i>Can't you see that ...?</i></li><li>• <i>Wouldn't it be better to ...?</i></li><li>• <i>Wouldn't it be wiser to ...?</i></li><li>• <i>Wouldn't you agree that ...?</i></li><li>• <i>Why shouldn't they?</i></li></ul>
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## 7. Conversation Strategy Practice

Please look at the Topics below. Please have a short conversation using the Topic and Opinion Questions. Pick the right Opinion Questions from above and ask your partner some questions. Your partner should give a brief response.

### Example:

*Topic = War*

**Student A** - *Opinion Question 1 = What do you think of war?*

**Student B** - *Response 1 = I think it's a necessary evil.*

**Student A** - *Opinion Question 1 = Don't you think it's better to find peace through political channels?*

**Student B** - *Response 2 = I do, but sometimes war is inevitable.*

## Practice:

*Student A*

Please ask Opinion Questions with the Topics below & have a short conversation with Student B.

- **Military Service**
- **Sex trade**

*Student B*

Please ask Opinion Questions with the Topics below & have a short conversation with Student A

- **Membership Training**
- **Gay marriage**

## 8. Phrasal Verbs

These **Phrasal Verbs** are very common in relation to **Countries/Europe**.

Phrasal Verb	Meaning	Collocation	Example
<b>abide by*</b>	to accept without objection	<b>treaty</b> <b>policy</b>	He stressed that the US would <b>abide by</b> the Canal <b>Treaty</b> timetable to hand over the canal to Panamanian rule.
<b>break *off *</b>	to end a relationship	<b>alliance</b>	The conservative party <b>broke off</b> the <b>alliance</b> with the democratic party over problems in the plan.
<b>carve *out*</b>	remove from a larger whole	<b>state</b> <b>country</b>	Prosecutors at the Hague argued that the former Yugoslav president had been involved in a plan to <b>carve out</b> an ethnically pure Serb <b>state</b> on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.
<b>force *through*</b>	to do something so that a proposal is accepted or an issue is dealt with quickly	<b>plan</b>	The government intends to <b>force</b> <b>through</b> the <b>plan</b> with the help of the Liberal Democrats.

<b>hammer *out*</b>	discuss vehemently in order to reach a solution or an agreement	<b>position</b>	The delegates used the meetings in Havana to <b>hammer out</b> a common <b>position</b> .
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## 9. Idioms

These Idioms are very common and they are connected to **our reading**.

Idioms/Phrases	Meaning	Situation	Example
<b>Be in favor of</b>	To approve of, to support	Agree with a proposal, project...	All of you who <b>are in favor of</b> the proposal, please raise your hands.
<b>Lose sleep over</b>	Not to be able to sleep well because of something	You are worried, anxious, you have butterflies in your stomach.	A. Are you worried about the exam results tomorrow. B. No, I'm not going to <b>lose sleep over</b> it.
<b>Food for thought</b>	Something that is well worth considering		I think you should go to the presentation next Monday. It might be interesting. <b>Food for thought anyway!</b>
<b>Beat around the bush</b>	To not deal directly with a problem	Opposite: <u>(be) straight to the point</u>	Sarah <b>beat around the bush</b> and offered one excuse after another for not being able to make my party. Let's <i>not</i> <b>beat around the bush</b> .

			You can't stand it here, and I love it. So why don't you leave and I'll stay?
<b>Take a stand</b>	To defend and assert one's point of view	Opposite would be: <u>apathetic, do nothing</u>	The students <b>took a stand</b> <i>against</i> the university, demanding the lowering of fees.