



# REMEMBRANCE / VETERANS DAY

***“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old; Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them.”***

From *The Fallen* by Laurence Binyon (1869-1943)

## 1. Remembrance Day / Veterans Day Discussion

1. What do you know about World War 1 (also known as The Great War)? Why did it start, and which countries were involved? Did your country have any involvement in World War 1?
2. Why do you think people called World War 1 the "war to end all wars"? Why did the world go to war again in 1939?
3. During the Christmas of 1914, British and German soldiers came out of their trenches to play a football match with each other. What does that tell you about the people forced to fight in this war? What does this event say about human nature and humanity?
4. What are some of the things that happened during World War 2?
5. Did your country have any involvement in World War 2?
6. Which other wars has your country been involved in?
7. Do you think there could be another world war in the future? If so, what might cause this?
8. Have we forgotten the lessons of history with respect to war and conflict?

## 2. Remembrance Day / Veterans Day Vocabulary

- **armistice** (noun) - *an agreement between opposing sides in a war to stop fighting while an attempt is made to negotiate a lasting peace; the original day to commemorate the end of World War 1 was called 'Armistice Day'.*
- **trench warfare** (noun) - *where two opposing sides in a war dig trenches into the ground from which they attack or defend, often resulting in multiple fatalities to advance a few metres.*
- **(to) conscript** (verb, noun - person), **conscription** (noun - concept) - *compulsory enlistment of people for military service; a person who has been conscripted.*
- **poppy** (noun) - *a red flower; the symbol of Remembrance Day for many countries around the world who sometimes call the day 'Poppy Day'.*
- **veteran** (noun) - *a person with many years of experience in a particular field or job; someone who served in the military.*
- **lest we forget** (saying) - *used to remind people not to forget something; a plea not to forget the sacrifices of those who gave their lives during the wars of the past.*

**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. Every year the Queen lays a wreath of **poppies** at the Cenotaph as a symbol of remembrance for those who died in all previous wars.
2. During World War 2, people were not only **conscripted** to fight in the army, but also to work in vital industries like coal mining.
3. **Lest we forget** the lessons and the horrors of war.
4. The **armistice** between the British and the Germans signalled the end of the First World War.
5. The government has a duty to look after the well-being of **veterans** who risked their lives defending their country.
6. **Trench warfare** was a futile tactic that resulted in thousands and thousands of deaths for hardly any territorial gain.

### Remembrance Day / Veterans Day vocabulary comprehension questions

1. Has your country ever signed an armistice with anyone? Was it successful in ending the conflict?
2. What do you think about trench warfare? Why did countries persist with it when it was so futile? How do you think the soldiers felt?
3. Do you agree with conscription during times of war? Why or why not?
4. Does your country have a symbol like the poppy to remember its war heroes?
5. Do you think veterans are treated as well as they deserve to be by society?
6. Why is the saying "lest we forget" so important?

### 3. Video: The Meaning Of Remembrance Day

You are going to watch a video by Inside Edition called "What Is Remembrance Day and Why Is the Poppy Its Symbol?"

Watch the video here: <https://yourengishpal.com/blog/esl-conversation-lesson-plan-remembrance-veterans-day>

Watch the video and answer the following questions:

#### Multiple choice

1. What is Remembrance Day for?  
**a) to honour people who died in war**    b) to learn about wars    c) to celebrate military victories
2. When was Remembrance Day first observed?  
**a) after World War 1**    b) after World War 2    c) after the Cold War
3. When was the armistice signed to end World War 1?  
a) 10<sup>th</sup> November    **b) 11<sup>th</sup> November**    c) 12<sup>th</sup> November
4. How many minutes of silence are observed at 11am?  
a) 1    **b) 2**    c) 3

#### Sentence completion

5. Artillery fire caused total annihilation on the Western **Front**.
6. After the destruction of the war, fields in Flanders were full of **poppies**.
7. Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae served as a **medic** during the war.
8. Since John McCrae's poem In Flanders Fields, the poppy has been the **flower** of remembrance.

#### Short answer

9. Which day is commemorated in the United States on 11<sup>th</sup> November? **Veterans Day**
10. Remembrance Day is a period of what? **Reflection**
11. The intention of Remembrance Day is not to...? **Glorify war**
12. What is the theme of Remembrance Day? **Lest we forget**

## 4. Remembrance Day / Veterans Day Conversation Questions

1. What is the purpose of Remembrance Day and Veterans Day? How important is it to honour members of the armed forces? How does your country honour the members of its armed forces?
2. Do you have any family members that have served in the armed forces? How was their experience? Do they feel respected?
3. What motivates people to join the military?
4. Do you think society respects people who serve in the military enough? Do you think veterans are more or less respected than they were in the past?
5. What duty do governments have to members of the armed forces? What is their duty to veterans who have completed their service?
6. Which other people serve their country? Is it important to honour these people as well?
7. Could national days to honour the military ever be considered a dangerous sign of nationalism? If so, why might this be?
8. Would you be prepared to risk or sacrifice your life to help defend your country?

## 5. Remembrance Day / Veterans Day Writing Task

Write about the importance of remembering those who sacrificed their lives defending their countries. Try to use some of the vocabulary you learned earlier in this class. In your answer, you could include some of the following topics:

- How these people are honoured or remembered in your country.
- How they are remembered in other countries.
- Why it's important to remember them.

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

Despite days of national remembrance to honour those who sacrificed their lives in past wars, society has largely forgotten the lessons from those wars. Do you agree or disagree with this?