

World War II – Word List

- **act of revenge** = something you do to punish someone who has harmed you
- **advance** = march forward
- **agree** = to say yes to something
- **agreement** = when two people, groups or countries promise to do something
- **aircraft carrier** = ship that planes can fly from and land on
- **alliance** = when two or more countries agree to work together
- **Allies** = the countries that fought against Germany in World War II (The USA, Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union)
- **although** = while
- **amount** = how much of something
- **appoint** = to choose someone for a position or job
- **arise-arose** = come up, start
- **arrest** = if a person is taken to a police station because they may have done something against the law
- **artillery** = large guns that are moved on wheels or fixed in a place
- **assassinate** = kill a political person
- **at once** = quickly, right now
- **attack** = an act of using weapons against an enemy in a war
- **attempt** = try
- **attention** = concentration, interest
- **Axis** = the countries that fought against the Allies in World War II (Germany, Japan and others)
- **ban** = forbid
- **battle** = fight between armies in a war
- **battle line** = the line that separates two fighting armies
- **BBC** = British Broadcasting Corporation
- **belief** = idea
- **blame** = to say that a person is responsible for something bad
- **blockade** = the surrounding of an area by an army to stop people or supplies entering or leaving
- **border** = line between two countries or regions
- **British Isles** = the islands that make up the United Kingdom and Ireland
- **broadcast** = here: to send out a message over the radio
- **bunker** = a strong underground building that is built for soldiers and officers
- **capture** = 1) to catch someone and keep them as prisoner
- **capture** = 2) to take control of ...
- **cargo** = the goods that are carried on a ship or a plane
- **cause** = lead to, the reason for
- **chancellor** = the leader of a government
- **chant** = to say words or a phrase again and again
- **charter** = a set of rules that countries agree on
- **childhood** = the time during which you are a child
- **citizen** = a person who lives in a country and has rights there
- **civil war** = fight between two groups of the same country
- **civilian** = a person who is not a soldier in a war
- **claim** = declare, say in public
- **command** = to tell soldiers to do something; to be the leader of an army
- **commando** = a soldier who is trained to make special attacks
- **commit suicide** = to kill yourself
- **concentrate** = focus on
- **concentration camp** = a place where people are kept prisoners and treated badly
- **conquer** = to take control of a country by fighting
- **conquest** = to take over another country through fighting
- **constitution** = the set of laws that a country has
- **convince** = make people believe that what you tell them is right or true
- **convoy** = group of ships that travel together
- **counterattack** = you attack someone who has attacked you in a war
- **courage** = to be brave and show that you are not afraid in a dangerous situation
- **create** = make, start
- **crowd** = a large group of people
- **damage** = the harm that you do to someone or something
- **death camp** = place where a large number of prisoners are killed or die
- **declare war** = when a government officially says that it is at war
- **defeat** = to win against somebody or another country
- **defence line** = the front line that a country uses to stop enemy soldiers

- **defend** = protect, guard
- **desert** = an area of dry land with little or no rainfall
- **desperately** = badly, very much
- **destroy** = to damage completely
- **destroyer** = small fast military ship with guns
- **destruction** = if something is damaged or ruined completely
- **devastate** = to destroy completely
- **develop** = make
- **difficulty** = problems, trouble
- **disabled** = someone who cannot use a part of their body
- **disagree** = to have a different opinion, to quarrel
- **discover** = to find something
- **disease** = illness
- **distribute** = give out, send
- **divide** = split, break up into
- **economic** = everything connected with business and the economy; the buying and selling of goods
- **economy** = the system of buying and selling goods in a country
- **effective** = useful, helpful
- **elect** = to vote for someone
- **emblem** = a picture or object that is used to show a country, organization or a party
- **emerge** = come up ; create
- **empire** = a group of countries that is controlled by a ruler or a king
- **enemy** = the country you are fighting against
- **enormous amount** = a lot, a large number of
- **escape** = to get away in a dangerous situation
- **escort** = a ship that travels with another one to protect it
- **especially** = above all
- **even though** = while
- **eventually** = finally, in the end
- **evidence** = facts that show that something exists or is true
- **evil** = bad
- **exile** = if a person leaves their own country and goes to another country for political reasons
- **expand** = to grow, get bigger
- **false** = not real; with another name on it
- **Fascism** = a system in which people's lives are completely controlled by the state ; no other opinions are allowed
- **fiercely** = violently, strong
- **fleet** = a group of ships that belongs to the navy of a country
- **focus on** = concentrate, centre
- **follower** = someone who supports the ideas of a leader
- **food supplies** = the food that people need to survive
- **force** = to make someone do something
- **forces** = army, soldiers
- **foreign** = from another country
- **found - founded** = to create something new
- **front** = line that separates two armies
- **frostbite** = when it is very cold and your fingers and toes swell and become darker; sometimes they even fall off
- **fuel** = coal, gas or oil that can be burned to make heat
- **gate** = a part of a wall that you can open to enter or leave
- **gather** = (1) collect
- **gather** = (2) bring together
- **Gestapo** = the secret police force in Germany during the Nazi period
- **get rid of** = to kill people that they don't want any more
- **goods** = things that are produced so that they can be sold
- **government** = the people who rule a country
- **Great Depression** = period after the stock market crash of 1929 ; the time before the Second World War in which millions of people all over the world were out of work and many were poor
- **greatness** = here: being important and powerful
- **gypsies** = a group of people originally from India, who traditionally live and travel around in caravans, and who now live all over the world
- **halt** = stop
- **harsh** = very bad and very cold
- **hometown** = country where someone is born
- **homeless** = without a home
- **hooked** = curved, bent
- **horrors** = here: the bad and horrible things that happened
- **however** = but
- **illegal** = against the law , not allowed
- **in debt** = when you owe someone money
- **in honour** = to show respect for someone
- **in spite of** = without being affected by ...
- **increasingly** = more and more
- **inflation** = when prices go up and the value of money goes down
- **inland** = in a direction away from the coast into the centre of a country
- **install** = set up
- **intense** = strong, heavy
- **invade, invasion** = to enter a country with an army and take control of it

- **Jew** = member of a group of people who come from ancient Hebrews; many of them live in Israel
- **law and order** = situation in which people respect the law and follow the rules of a country
- **liberate** = to free
- **long range bomber** = plane that can carry bombs and drop them on a place far away
- **loyal** = if you always help your friends
- **mainland** = the main area of a country, not the islands
- **major** = big, important
- **manage** = to be able to do something
- **Manchuria** = part of northeastern China
- **mark** = to be a sign of, to show where something is
- **mass killing** = to kill many people in a short time
- **meanwhile** = in the time between two events
- **media** = radio and the newspapers; television did not exist in those days
- **memorial** = a kind of stone with writing on it, that reminds you of people who have died
- **mentally** = everything that has to do with your brain
- **minor** = small
- **mistress** = a woman that a man has a sexual relationship with, but is not his wife
- **modernize** = to make more modern
- **motion picture** = movie, film
- **mountainous** = with many mountains
- **movement** = group of people who believe the same things and have the same ideas
- **naval base** = a place where military people work and where many ships are kept
- **navy** = part of a country's army that fights at sea
- **Nazi** = short word for National Socialist
- **Nobel Prize** = a prize that is given to a person for special things they have done
- **occupation, occupy** = when soldiers and other people enter a country and take control of it
- **officer** = someone who is in a high position in an army
- **once and for all** = here: finally
- **oppose** = to be against
- **outlaw** = forbid, ban
- **outside world** = here: places outside of Germany
- **outstanding** = great, excellent, something special
- **overcrowded** = filled with too many people
- **overrun** = to move forward very quickly and destroy everything that is in your way
- **overseas colonies** = countries that are controlled by their mother countries in other continents
- **overthrow** = bring down, put an end to
- **paratrooper** = a soldier trained to jump out of plane using a parachute
- **partisan** = soldier of a group who fights against the army of his country
- **peace** = opposite of war
- **peace agreement, peace treaty** = when two people, groups or countries promise not to attack each other
- **persuade** = to make someone believe you
- **physically** = everything that has to do with your body
- **plant** = place, put
- **poison** = something that can lead to death or make you ill
- **popular** = liked by many people
- **population** = the people who live in a country
- **possibility** = chance
- **poverty** = when you are poor
- **prison** = place where people go to when they have committed a crime
- **prisoner** = a person who is locked up in a place
- **propaganda** = information that is wrong, tells lies or only a part of the truth
- **protect, protection** = defend against something, guard
- **proud** = to feel satisfied and important
- **public** = for everyone
- **publish** = print information on paper
- **punish** = to make someone suffer because they have done something wrong
- **pure** = not mixed
- **race** = group of people with the same skin colour
- **radiation** = the energy that comes out of an atomic bomb; in large amounts it is dangerous to people
- **radio broadcast** = a program on the radio
- **raw materials** = very important products that a country needs, like wood, oil, coal etc..
- **reach** = get to, arrive in
- **realize** = to begin to understand something
- **receive** = get
- **recovery** = here: when the situation of a country gets better after a time of war or crisis
- **regime** = a government of a country; mostly one that was not elected in a fair way
- **release** = to set free
- **reparations** = money which a country that loses a war has to pay for all the deaths and damages that it caused
- **replace** = to take the place of

- **rescue** = save, set free
- **resistance** = an organization that secretly fights against an enemy that controls their country
- **responsible** = to blame for something
- **retreat** = to move back
- **rights** = the things that you are officially allowed to do
- **route** = roads, railway lines, canals, rivers
- **ruins** = everything is completely destroyed
- **rule** = govern
- **rulers** = people who are in control of a country
- **ruthless** = very cruel, brutal
- **savings** = all the money that you have saved
- **scientist** = a person who is trained in science
- **secret** = something that only a few people know about
- **secure** = make safe
- **sentence** = the punishment that a judge gives a person
- **separate** = single, independent
- **serve** = here: to be president
- **set up** = organize, start
- **shelter** = a place to live and sleep
- **shipyard** = a place where ships are built or repaired
- **shore** = coast
- **shower** = you stand under it and wash your body
- **sign** = (1) piece of wood or metal with information on it
- **sign** = (2) to put your name on a document
- **slave** = someone who is owned by another person and works for them
- **slogan** = motto
- **smash** = here: to break through very fast
- **soldier** = a person who fights for their country in a war
- **solution** = the answer to a problem
- **solve** = work out; find an answer to a problem
- **sonar** = machine on a ship or submarine that uses sound waves to find out where objects under water are
- **split** = to break apart
- **spread** = extend to
- **starvation** = suffer or die because you do not get enough to eat
- **state** = country
- **statesman** = a leader who is respected in his country and in other countries
- **strengthen** = to make stronger
- **suburb** = an area of the city which is farther away from the centre
- **successful** = to be good at something
- **suffer** = to feel pain
- **supplies** = things that are necessary for daily life , like food, clothes, medicine etc...
- **support** = (1) help, assist
- **support** = (2) to be in favour of ...
- **supporter** = person who follows a leader or his group
- **surrender** = give up
- **surround** = to be around something, from all sides
- **survive** = to continue to live on after a dangerous situation
- **swastika** = the sign or symbol of the Nazi party
- **synagogue** = a place where Jewish people meet to pray
- **take off** = start
- **take over** = take control of
- **take place** = happen
- **take revenge** = something you do to punish someone who has hurt you
- **tank** = a heavy military car that moves on a metal belt. It has a large gun on its top
- **target** = here: country you want to attack
- **task** = job, mission
- **terrifying** = horrible, scary
- **territory** = land
- **Third Reich** = the period of Nazi government , led by Adolf Hitler from 1933 to 1945
- **threat** = danger
- **threaten** = to say that you will hurt someone if they do not do what you say
- **throughout** = in all of
- **treat** = care for, look after
- **treaty** = a written document between people, groups or countries
- **troops** = soldiers
- **turning point** = here: the time when one army starts winning battles and the other starts losing them
- **urge** = persuade ; to ask someone to do something
- **victory** = to win against someone
- **volunteer** = to do something or work without getting paid for it
- **war trial** = people who are responsible for war crimes are put before a court
- **weapon** = things that you use to fight against someone, like a bomb , knife or a gun
- **wheat** = food plant that white bread is made from
- **withdraw** = to move back
- **wolf packs** = here: a group of submarines that travel together and attack enemy ships
- **worthless** = not worth anything
- **Yalta** = city in southern Ukraine
- **yet** = but