

UNIT 8

International Organizations

VOCABULARY:

The following acronyms stand for:

UN → the United Nations

UNESCO → The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation

UNICEF → The UN Children's Emergency Fund

UNHCR → The UN high Commissioner for Refugees

WHO → World Health Organisation

FHO → Food and Agriculture Organisation

ICRC → International Committee of the Red Cross / Crescent

TI → Transparency International

AI → Amnesty International

WTO → World Trade Organisation

DWF → Doctors Without Frontiers

The United Nations was established in the 40s to maintain international peace and security. According to its charter, member states are supposed to refrain from the use of force against other member states. This document also calls on countries to settle bilateral disputes by peaceful means. **That is to say**, international discords should be solved by diplomacy and negotiations. Any violations of this principle **can result in** severe economic and political sanctions. The UN has a court in The Hague (Holland) whose function is **to look into** conflicts between countries.

Amnesty International is an independent pressure group. It **campaigns** for the release of imprisoned or maltreated people because of their political or religious beliefs. The movement was **founded** in 1961 and has its **headquarters** in London. Amnesty International has a **network** of voluntary local groups and individual members throughout the world. To keep its independence from governmental influence, AI is financed by **donations** and benevolent contributions. AI's activities include campaigns and **lobbying** for political and religious freedom.

To achieve security in the world, populations must be protected from **genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing** and **crimes against humanity**.

Through **solidarity**, countries can be stable and secure.

Poor countries should benefit from the world's wealth **as much as** rich countries.

Useful Expressions:

The UN **came into existence** on 24 October 1945.

The UN aims at **resolving international conflicts peacefully**. It also aims at saving succeeding generations from **the scourge of war**.

The UN provides assistance to developing countries and encourages *sustainable development* and self-sufficiency. Furthermore, it is considered a leader in promoting democracy human rights.

Despite of the fact that it doesn't have enforceable legal authority over member states, the UN remains an influential organization. For example, it can recommend that member states impose *arms embargoes* or wide-ranging sanctions against nations which threaten to *disrupt international peace*.

Amnesty International is a *non-profit organization*.

Salma: When was the League of Nations formed?

Alae: It was formed in 1919.

Salma: When did the UN officially come into existence?

Alae: It officially came into existence on 24 October 1945.

Salma: Where was the United Nations Charter signed?

Alae: It was signed in San Francisco, USA.

A: Where are the headquarters of the UN based?

B: They are based in New York, USA.

Vocabulary: (page115)

to govern: to administer

to draft: to write

to set forth: to present

considerable: thoughtful

to have a moral force: it is considered right, a good thing. It is not illegal

Collocations: (page 117)

to resolve conflicts peacefully

to save generations from the scourge of war

maintain international peace disrupt international peace

natural disasters

sustainable development

to encourage self-sufficiency

non-profit organization

highly valued

Abbreviations: (p119)

GMT → Greenwich Mean Time

MARWAN → Moroccan Academic and Research Wide Area Network

AIDS → Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

NATO → North Atlantic Treaty Organization

Vocabulary: (page 120)

You should install an antivirus in order to prevent computer viruses.

It takes only a few minutes to set up a blog. There are some elements to bear in mind, though.

We always settle our conflicts in our class peacefully.

We all agree to help each other, don't we?

We are allowed to use only English in our classroom.

The UN has played a prominent role in maintaining international peace. It has also

been a leader in a wide range of other fields such as providing **humanitarian assistance**, improving medical treatment, **promoting democracy** and human rights.

Dialogue: The United Nations

Son: Why was the UN formed?

Father: It was formed to provide nations with a way to resolve conflicts peacefully and to provide assistance to nations in crisis.

Son: Don't you see that the UN has failed to stop international conflicts?

Father: You know that's not true. Since 1945, the UN has carried out peacekeeping operations in many international crisis. Thanks to the interventions of this organization, many countries are now living in peace and harmony. Don't you think so?

Son: Yes, of course there is that, but I still believe that the UN hasn't got a real power to solve all the regional and international conflicts. Has it found a solution to the problem of our Moroccan Sahara? Does it have enough power to settle peace in Somalia and Sudan for example?

Father: I agree with you, but you shouldn't underestimate the role the UN has played to resolve these problems and many other conflicts peacefully...

Some useful expressions to ask for and give opinion: (page 120)

Don't you see that...? You must know that... Are you telling me that...? Yes, that's all very well, but... Yes, of course there is that, but... That makes no difference!	You know that's not true. In my opinion,... I guess,... I trust,... I definitely think that...
--	--

*A: Cigarettes advertisements are a danger to public health. **What do you think?**

B: **To my mind**, they should be banned.

*A: **What's your opinion about** the Moroccan comedian, El Jem?

B: **I really feel that** he's the funniest actor in Morocco.

Vocabulary: (page 123)

immediate: prompt

non-lucrative: non-profit

the poor : the needy

irrespective of: without regard to

vulnerable: physically or emotionally weak

as a consequence of: due to

The Moroccan Red Crescent (MRC) is a non-profit making, voluntary relief organization. Due to their continuing assistance to the needy and prompt disaster relief activities, MRC and the Red Cross have a world renowned reputation. They serve vulnerable people and those in need without regard to race, religion, class or political belief.

EXPRESSIONS OF AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT: (p123)

Agreeing	Disagreeing
I agree.	I'm afraid I don't agree.

I agree entirely / completely.
I certainly agree with that.
I couldn't agree more.
That's a good point.
I share the same view.
That's exactly what I was thinking myself.
I quite agree with you
You're definitely / absolutely right.
You're quite right
That's just how I see it.
I suppose so.

I disagree with you.
I'm sorry, but I disagree.
Sorry to say it, but you're wrong.
Yes, that's quite true, but...
I don't share this view.
I don't share this view with you.
I'm afraid you're wrong there.
I'm not sure I quite agree with you here.
Perhaps, but don't you agree...?
I see what you mean, but...
I suppose not.

A: Our school handball team is the best.

B: *I suppose so.* (partial agreement)

A: They have done a good job.

B: *I suppose not.* (partial disagreement)

THE GERUND: (p 124)

The Malhoun

Playing Malhoun involves remembering hundreds of musical phrases and singing them properly. Unlike poets, novelists and painters, Malhoun musicians aren't accustomed to working alone. Because of the true nature of Malhoun, for most of them, playing and practising must be with other musicians. Some Malhoun musicians are skillful at improvising. Singing and using Moroccan dialect is a lot of fun for them.

I greatly enjoyed listening to the last song of the concert. It was certainly worth listening to. However, I admit not liking all of it.

I certainly appreciated your inviting me to the concert.

Hamid enjoys fishing and jogging.

Amina is interested in reading magazines.

Salim's father can't stand watching Egyptian movies.

Would you mind opening the window, please?

I hope you'll enjoy visiting the museum.

Salah thinks it's not worth wasting time on watching some Moroccan football matches.

A: Let's have a tagine with lamb and prunes.

B: I'm fed up with lamb! I suggest having fish and a mixed salad.

Uses of the gerund and infinitive (p125)

Excluding women from the political scene is a hindrance to women empowerment.

On my way to work, I usually stop to pick up hitchhikers, whatever they look like.

I stared to read an article about the United Nations.

Our English teacher doesn't allow using languages other than English.

My father doesn't allow my little brother to use his laptop.

Halima prefers having couscous on Fridays.

Halima prefers to have couscous on Fridays.

Not knowing what to do, I went to look for somebody to help me.

*A: I'm going to see Casa Negra.

B: Is it worth seeing?