

EASY ACCESS ENGLISH

Waterloo





Activity One - test your knowledge - with your partner try to answer the questions:

When was the battle of waterloo? Who fought in it?

Why was it important?

Who were the main leaders in the battle?

Where was Napoleon sent after his defeat at Waterloo?

Activity Two - Past tense revision. Let's quickly revise the past tenses in English and then try to practice them with a gap fill exercise about Waterloo.

Past simple - did - used for simple statements about the past - Napolean lost the battle of Waterloo.

Past continuous - was / were doing - used to express what was happening at a specific moment in the past - had done - Napoleon was riding a horse when the battle took place.

Past perfect - used to express what had happened before something else occurred- If Napoleon had not lost the battle of Waterloo he would not have lost power.

Past perfect Progressive - used to express what was happening for a period before something else in the past. - If it had not been raining before the battle the French might have won.

Present Perfect Something. has happened in the past and it has a connection to the present

-I have never studied history so I don't know about the battle of Waterloo.

Now - Fill the gaps with the correct past tenses of the verbs in this list:

To fight, to draw to a close, to begin, to continue, to force, to exile, to motivate, to declare, to mark, to be, to end.

The Battle of Waterloo was …….. thirteen kilometres south of Brussels between the French, under the command of Napoleon Bonaparte, and the Allied armies commanded by the Duke of Wellington from Britain and General Blücher from Prussia. The French defeat at Waterloo …….. to a close 23 years of war which…….. with the French Revolutionary wars in 1792 and …….. with the Napoleonic Wars from 1803. There was a brief eleven-month respite when Napoleon was …….. to abdicate, ……. ……..to the island of Elba. However, the unpopularity of Louis XVIII and the economic and social instability of France …….. him to return to Paris in March 1815. The Allies soon …….. war once again. Napoleon's final defeat at Waterloo …….. the end of the Emperor's final bid for power, the so-called '100 Days', and the final chapter in his remarkable career. The battle of Waterloo …….. a milestone in European history. It ……. over 20 years of conflict in Europe. It involved many nations and heralded over 50 years of peace and stability. The battle was the culmination of a long campaign, fought in Spain and Portugal, by the Duke of Wellington and his allied armies.

Activity Three - Watch the video and answer the questions. Read them first so that you know what to listen for - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgngFW4rqyw Battle of Waterloo: Morning of June 18th, 1815

- What are the military men trying to convince Napoleon of in the first scene?
- Who is second in command? (What's his name?)
- What does the second in command ask Wellington?
- Why does Wellington say that the young soldier is lucky?
- Who rides a white horse?
- What does one of the soldiers ask permission for?
- Why does Wellington agree to the singing?
- What does this last scene show?

Activity Four - In teams - Using the Past tense tell the class everything you know about one of the Napoleon. If you make a mistake with the tenses or the facts, the other team gets the points!

Activity Five - **Role Plays**: Choose and act out one of the following role plays.

1/ You are a British soldier and you are really scared of taking part in the battle. So you try to find an excuse to leave the battle field. You ask an officer for permission to leave.

2/ You are a French soldier and you think that it's really important to attack the British quickly before the Prussians can get their to help them. You try to convince an officer of that.

3/ You are Napoleon and you really hate British people. You talk to one of your officers about everything you don't like about them.

Activity Six: Waterloo is a song too! Listen to the song and read the lyrics. Then find all images and comparisons to war in the lyrics and explain why you think the song is called Waterloo and what it is really about.

At Waterloo Napoleon did surrender
And I have met my destiny in quite a similar way
The history book on the shelf
Is always repeating itself
Waterloo - I was defeated, you won the war
Waterloo - Promise to love you for ever more
Waterloo - Couldn't escape if I wanted to
Waterloo - Knowing my fate is to be with you
Waterloo - Finally facing my Waterloo

I tried to hold you back, but you were stronger
And now it seems my only chance is giving up the fight
And how could I ever refuse
Waterloo - I was defeated, you won the war
Waterloo - Promise to love you for ever more
Waterloo - Couldn't escape if I wanted to
Waterloo - Knowing my fate is to be with you
Waterloo - Finally facing my Waterloo

So how could I ever refuse
I feel like I win when I lose
Waterloo - I was defeated, you won the war
Waterloo - Promise to love you for ever more
Waterloo - Couldn't escape if I wanted to
Waterloo - Knowing my fate is to be with you
Waterloo - Finally facing my Waterloo

Activity Seven - Now see if you can make up a few song lyrics about one of these battles - with your partner or team. (Use some facts about the war in question and link them to a personal story in the same way as Abba did).

The battle of Agincourt - The battle of Gettysburg - The battle of Britain - The battle of Stalingrad - The battle of the Somme

Activity Eight...

Dressed for battle. Did you know - The wellington boots are believed to have been invented by, Arthur Wellesley, the first Duke of Wellington, invented the Wellington boot. Wellesley, a military leader, had his shoemaker from Hobby of St. James Street, he modify the standard-issue military footwear for comfort and fashion.



How times have changed... the latest war accessory is a fully autonomous robot...

Let's read the text and discuss it.

MARCH OF THE ROBOTS - THE ECONOMIST

IN THE early afternoon of August 18th 2008, a reconnaissance unit of about 100 French paratroopers, accompanied by a small number of Afghan and American soldiers, was ambushed by a similarly sized Taliban force in the Uzbin Valley, not far from Kabul. Ten French soldiers were killed in fighting that continued into the night—France's biggest loss since it sent soldiers to Afghanistan in 2002. But it might have been avoided had the unit had a single aerial-robot scout, says Gérard de Boisboissel, a specialist on military robots at the French army's Saint-Cyr military academy. That assessment, shared by many, led to a retooling of France's armed forces. Today drones, also called unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), routinely accompany even small French units.

In March Britain's Royal Artillery began buying robotic missiles designed by MBDA, a French company. The Fire Shadow is a "loitering munition" capable of travelling 100km, more than twice the maximum range of a traditional artillery shell. It can circle in the sky for hours, using sensors to

track even a moving target. A human operator, viewing a video feed, then issues an instruction to attack, fly elsewhere to find a better target, or abort the mission by destroying itself. But bypassing the human operator to automate attacks would be, technologically, in the “realm of feasibility”, an MBDA spokesman says.

Could the “man in the loop” be removed from robotic weapons? The Israel Defence Forces have installed “combat proven” robot machineguns along the country's borders. When sensors detect an intruder, the barrel pivots to follow him. A human soldier, watching the scene remotely via a fibre-optic link, decides whether or not to issue a warning (through a loudspeaker) or press the fire button. The robot sentry, the Samson Remote Weapon Station, could function without human intervention, says David Ishai of Rafael, its Israeli manufacturer, based in Haifa. But, he says, switching to automatic mode would be a bad idea—and illegal to boot.

Traditional rules of engagement stipulate that a human must decide if a weapon is to be fired. But this restriction is starting to come under pressure. Already, defence planners are considering whether a drone aircraft should be able to fire a weapon based on its own analysis.



A report on the question issued by Britain's Ministry of Defence last year argued that if a drone's control system takes appropriate account of the law on armed conflicts (basically military necessity, humanity, proportionality and the ability to distinguish between military targets and civilians), then an autonomous strike could meet legal norms.

Class Debate - Are you for or against autonomous war robots? Use the following expressions to present your viewpoint.

I feel that I believe that Obviously Essentially Ultimately Basically

In my opinion To my mind It seems to me that It’s obvious that Clearly

It seems that The issue is that The danger is that When all is said and done