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The 4 page 60 minute ESL British English lesson – 20/07/15

## What do you think of National Service?

Today, let's talk about national service. It is something I hadn't given much thought to, but when one of my students suggested I do a lesson on it I thought, why not?

National Service is the name used for compulsory government service. This is usually conscripted military service. It is typically for male citizens around the age of 18, who have to enrol for one to two years' of military service.

Prince Harry recently suggested that National Service be reintroduced in the UK. He is all for it. He revealed that his time in the army 'saved' him. He puts his hand up to say to the kids of today, "You can make bad choices, some severe, some not so severe. Without a doubt, it does keep you out of trouble."

There appears to be two types of countries enforcing conscription. One is a country who pushes a culture of militarism justified by a constant fear of war, for example, Israel. The other uses it to mask such issues as unemployment. Greece is a good example of this.

Some people might argue that the sheer cost of running National Service in a country is too much. They might say the money is wasted. These days most governments simply can't afford it.

Perhaps an 18 year old travelling the world on a gap year might learn more about life rather than learning how to fight and kill someone.

All of this does beg the question – Why don't women do National Service? In many countries they have equality. National Service should be a part of it, perhaps?

### SPEAKING – WARM UP

What is National Service? Think of three things you know about it. Go round the room swapping details with others.

### LISTENING – WRITING - DICTATION

The teacher will read some lines of the article slowly to the class.

### READING

Students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

### SPEAKING - UNDERSTANDING

**1) The article** – Students check any unknown vocabulary or phrases with the teacher.

**2) The article** - Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- 1) What is the article about?
- 2) What do you think about the article?
- 3) Was this an easy or difficult article to understand?
- 4) Was this a boring or interesting article?
- 5) Discuss the article.

**3) Article quiz** - Students quiz each other in pairs. Score a point for each correct answer. Score half a point each time you have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

#### Student A questions

- 1) Who is Prince Harry?
- 2) What is National Service?
- 3) Name the countries.
- 4) What did Prince Harry say?
- 5) Who might argue about what?

#### Student B questions

- 1) Who suggested the theme today?
- 2) Explain the two types of countries enforcing conscription.
- 3) What is a gap year?
- 4) Who does National Service?
- 5) What does the author suggest about women doing National Service?

**Category: National Service / Military / Prince Harry**  
**Level: Intermediate / Upper Intermediate**

What do you think of national service? – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2015

**WRITING / SPEAKING**

*In pairs.* On the board write as many words as you can about '**National Service**'. *One-two minutes.* Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

**WRITING / SPEAKING**

*In pairs* - Think of three things you know about national service. Write them below. Talk about them!

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Add** three reasons to do national service.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Add** three reasons NOT to do national service.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**SPEAKING - ROLEPLAY 2**

*In pairs* - *Student A* is a reporter in a national service camp. *Student B* is a conscript. Talk about what you do. (Imagine!) *3 mins.*

**DISCUSSION**

**Student A questions**

- 1) What do you think about what you've read?
- 2) Have you done National Service?
- 3) Would you like to do National Service?
- 4) Do you think women should do National Service? Explain.
- 5) In which countries do women do National Service?
- 6) Does National Service benefit a country or not? Explain.
- 7) Think of three countries in the world NOT in the article that do National Service.
- 8) Why do the countries you mention in question 7 do National Service?
- 9) Do the countries you list in question 7 have a high unemployment rate, a high national debt, a fear of war and do they like to instigate war?
- 10) Have you learnt anything in today's English lesson?

**SPEAKING – ROLEPLAY 1**

*In groups.* One of you is the interviewer. The others are one of the following people. You are in the *Discussion FM*. Today's interview is about: *What do you think of national service?*

- 1) A person who has done national service.
- 2) A person who is currently doing national service.
- 3) A person who is against national service.
- 4) Prince Harry.

**The teacher** will choose some groups to roleplay their interview in front of the class.

**SPEAKING - DISCUSSION**

*Allow 10 minutes* – As a class.

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Discuss the following...</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">What do you think of national service?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What are the cases for national service?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Is Prince Harry right? – Yes or No</p>
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**The teacher** can moderate the session.

**DISCUSSION**

**Student B questions**

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) What do conscripts actually do when doing National Service?
- 3) Is National Service a waste of people's time? Explain.
- 4) Is Prince Harry right to suggest the reintroduction of National Service in the UK?
- 5) If National Service was reintroduced in the UK should women take part? Explain!
- 6) Surely, going round the world on a gap year would benefit a person more than giving them a gun to kill someone?
- 7) National Service is not just about learning how to be a soldier, is it?
- 8) Surely, many people doing National Service are put to work helping their local community?
- 9) Did you like this discussion?

**GAP FILL: READING**

**What do you think of National Service?**

Today, let's talk about national (1)\_\_. It is something I hadn't given much thought to, but when one of my students suggested I do a lesson on it I thought, why not?

National Service is the name used for (2)\_\_ government service. This is (3)\_\_ conscripted military service. It is typically for male citizens around the age of 18, who have to (4)\_\_ for one to two years' of (5)\_\_ service.

Prince Harry recently suggested that National Service be reintroduced in the UK. He is all for it. He revealed that his time in the (6)\_\_ 'saved' him. He puts his hand up to say to the kids of today, "You can make bad choices, some (7)\_\_, some not so severe. Without a doubt, it does keep you out of (8)\_\_."

**trouble / severe / usually / service / army / military / compulsory / enrol**

There appears to be two types of countries enforcing (1)\_\_. One is a country who pushes a culture of militarism justified by a constant (2)\_\_ of (3)\_\_, for example, Israel. The other uses it to (4)\_\_ such issues as (5)\_\_. Greece is a good example of this.

Some people might argue that the (6)\_\_ cost of running National Service in a country is too much. They might say the money is wasted. These days most governments simply can't (7)\_\_ it.

(8)\_\_ an 18 year old travelling the world on a gap year might learn more about life rather than learning how to fight and kill someone.

All of this does beg the question – Why don't women do National Service? In many countries they have equality. National Service should be a part of it, perhaps?

**sheer / afford / war / unemployment / fear / mask / perhaps / conscription**

**GAP FILL: GRAMMAR**

**What do you think of National Service?**

Today, let's talk about national service. It is something I hadn't given much thought to, (1)\_\_ when one of (2)\_\_ students suggested I do a lesson on it I thought, (3)\_\_ not?

National Service is the name used for compulsory government service. This is usually conscripted military service. It is typically (4)\_\_ male citizens around the age of 18, who have to enrol for one to two years' of military service.

Prince Harry recently suggested that National Service be reintroduced in the UK. (5)\_\_ is all for it. He revealed that his time in the army 'saved' (6)\_\_. He puts (7)\_\_ hand up to say to the kids of today, "You can make bad choices, some severe, some not so severe. Without a doubt, it does keep (8)\_\_ out of trouble."

**you / him / but / his / why / for / he / my**

There appears to be two types of countries enforcing conscription. One is a country who pushes a culture of militarism justified by a constant fear of war, for example, Israel. The other uses it to mask (1)\_\_ issues as unemployment. Greece is a good example of this.

(2)\_\_ people (3)\_\_ argue that the sheer cost of running National Service in a country is too much. They might say the money is wasted. (4)\_\_ days most governments simply can't afford it.

Perhaps an 18 year old travelling the world on a gap year might learn (5)\_\_ about life (6)\_\_ than learning how to fight and kill someone.

All of (7)\_\_ does beg the question – Why don't women do National Service? In many countries they have equality. National Service (8)\_\_ be a part of it, perhaps?

**these / rather than / might / some / such / more / this / should**

## GAP FILL: LISTENING

### What do you think of National Service?

Today, let's talk about \_\_\_\_\_. It is something I hadn't given much thought to, but when one of my students suggested I do a lesson on it I thought, why not?

National Service is the name used for compulsory \_\_\_\_\_. This is usually conscripted military service. It is typically \_\_\_\_\_ around the age of 18, who have to enrol for one to two years' of military service.

\_\_\_\_\_ suggested that National Service be reintroduced in the UK. He is all for it. He revealed that his time in the army 'saved' him. He puts his hand up to say to the kids of today, "You can make bad choices, some severe, some not so severe. Without a doubt, it does \_\_\_\_\_."

There appears to be two types of countries enforcing conscription. One is a country who pushes \_\_\_\_\_ justified by a constant fear of war, for example, Israel. The other uses it to mask such issues as unemployment. Greece is a good example of this.

\_\_\_\_\_ argue that the sheer cost of running National Service in a country is too much. They might say the money is wasted. These days most governments simply can't afford it.

Perhaps an 18 year old \_\_\_\_\_ on a gap year might learn more about life rather than learning how to fight and kill someone.

All of this \_\_\_\_\_ - Why don't women do National Service? In many countries they have equality. National Service should be a part of it, perhaps?

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## WRITING/SPELLING

### WRITING / SPEAKING

**1) On the board** – As a class / In pairs - List 20 things you know about National Service. *Five minutes. Discuss together.*

**2) Sentence starters** - Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- 1) National Service \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) I think \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Prince Harry \_\_\_\_\_

**3) 50 words** – In class – Write 50 words about: ***What I think of National Service.***

**4) Homework** - Write and send a 200 word email to your teacher about: ***What I think of National Service.*** Your email can be read out in class.

### GAP FILL READING

- 1) service
- 2) compulsory
- 3) usually
- 4) enrol
- 5) military
- 6) army
- 7) severe
- 8) trouble

### ANSWERS

- 1) conscription
- 2) fear
- 3) war
- 4) mask
- 5) unemployment
- 6) sheer
- 7) perhaps
- 8) afford

### SPELLING

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards check your answers.

- 1) doubt
- 2) conscription
- 3) army
- 4) trouble
- 5) militarism
- 6) justified
- 7) Israel
- 8) Greece
- 9) argue
- 10) perhaps

### SPELLING

Use the following ratings:

**Pass = 12**

**Good = 15**

**Very good = 18**

**Excellent = 20**

- 11) rather
- 12) governments
- 13) beg
- 14) women
- 15) equality
- 16) sheer
- 17) might
- 18) something
- 19) thought
- 20) compulsory

What do you think of national service? – *20<sup>th</sup> July 2015*