



MEMORIAL DAY

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*All we have of freedom,
All we use or know,
This our fathers bought for us
Long, long ago.
-- Rudyard Kipling*

Memorial Day Discussion Topics for English Language Learners

- What is Memorial Day?
- When did Memorial Day begin?
- Why do people observe Memorial Day?
- What does Memorial Day mean to you?
- Why is it important to remember men and women who have died for our country?
- How did the poppy come to be a symbol of Memorial Day?

- Does your home country have a holiday similar to Memorial Day? If so, what is it? When is it observed? How is it observed?
- What are some of the risks a soldier faces?
- What sacrifices do soldiers make?
- What character qualities does an individual need in order to be a good soldier? Explain your answer.
- Why do people volunteer to serve in the Armed Forces?
- Some countries require all citizens (or all male citizens) to serve a certain amount of time in the military. What are the benefits of mandatory service? What are the disadvantages?
- Which is better, an all-volunteer military or mandatory military service? Why?
- What makes a person a hero?
- Name someone whom you consider a hero, and explain why that person is a hero to you.
- It's been said that heroes are simply ordinary people who do extraordinary things. Do you agree or disagree with this definition? Explain your answer.
- What would you be willing to fight for? Why?
- What would you be willing to die for? Why?
- What makes someone a good citizen? Explain your answer.
- What responsibilities do citizens have to their country? Their government? Their fellow citizens?