

vocabulary

for

Zafira, a girl from Syria

WORD HELPS based on Oxford 2000 keywords

CONTENTS

firecracker - a firework that explodes with a loud noise

ghost ship - a ship with no living crew on board

CHAPTER 1

classmate - a person who is or was in the same class as you in school

classroom - a room where a class or children or students are taught

tournament - a sports competition

blackboard - a large board with a black or green surface that teachers write on with a piece of chalk

mysteriously - in a way that is difficult to understand or explain

shortly - a short time, not long

fatherland - a country where a person or their family was born

Teutonic - showing qualities considered typical of German people

to defend - to protect sb/sth from attack

to program - to give a computer, etc. a set of instructions to make it perform a particular task

chestnut - a deep, reddish-brown color

slender - thin in an attractive or elegant way

headscarf - a square piece of cloth tied around the head by women or girls

anxiously - in a worried or nervous way

to hesitate - to be slow to speak or act because you feel uncertain

to pluck up (the) courage (to do sth) - to make yourself do sth, even though you are afraid to do it

to accompany - to go somewhere with sb

carton - a light cardboard or plastic box

wise - able to make sensible decisions and give good advice based on experience and knowledge

Arabic - the language of the Arabs

CHAPTER 2

bombing - when a bomb is dropped or left somewhere
to flee - to leave a person or a place very quickly, especially because you are afraid
recess - (AE) a period of time between lessons at school
to nod - to move your head up and down to show agreement
pearl - a small shiny white ball that forms inside an oyster
mussel - a small shellfish
scholar - a person who knows a lot about a particular subject
to observe - to see or notice sb/sth
astrologer - a person who studies the stars to learn what influence they have on human life
calculations - the act or process of using numbers to find an amount
cipher - here: a symbol
hero - a person admired by many people for doing sth good or brave
standpoint - an opinion or a way of thinking about ideas or situations
worthless - having no practical or financial value
Roman numerals - letters used by the ancient Romans to represent numbers
inscription - words written in the front of a book or cut in stone or metal
cemetery - an area of land used for burying dead people
stroke - a mark made by moving a pen, brush, etc. once across a surface
barkeeper - the person who serves drinks in a bar, or the owner or manager of a bar
to double - to become, or make sth become, twice as much or many
fluently - if you speak or read a language ~, you speak or read it easily and well

CHAPTER 3

nope - used to say 'no'
Chinese lantern - a lamp that is inside a paper case, with a handle to carry it
candle - a round piece of wax with a string through the middle which is lit to give light as it burns
Simon Says - a children's game
Musical Chairs - a children's game
homemade - made at home, rather than produced in a factory or bought at a store
sundae - ice cream covered with a sweet sauce, with nuts, pieces of fruit, etc.
refreshment - drinks and small amounts of food provided or sold in a public place or at a public event
refugee - a person who has been forced to leave their home
horseback - sitting on a horse
sigh - an act or the sound of sighing

CHAPTER 4

to hassle - to annoy sb or cause them trouble
bakery - a place where bread and cakes are made and sold
to scream - to give a loud, high cry
to scoff - to talk about sb/sth in a way that shows you think they are stupid or ridiculous
to react - to change or behave in a particular way as a result of or in response to sth
not to have a clue - to know nothing about sth or about how to do sth
to sob - to cry noisily, taking short, sudden breaths
gunfire - the repeated firing of guns; the sound of guns firing
to hijack - to use violence or threats to take control of a vehicle

to wake - to stop sleeping; to make sb stop sleeping
to buzz - to make a continuous low sound
wasp - a black and yellow flying insect that can sting

CHAPTER 5

mosque - a building in which Muslims worship
air raid - an attack by planes dropping many bombs on a place
hippo - short for hippopotamus
cuddly toy - soft and designed to be held lovingly (like a teddy bear)
to cuddle - to hold sb/sth close in your arms and show love or affection
zookeeper - a person who works in a zoo, taking care of the animals
cellar - an underground room often used for storing things
steel - a strong, hard metal
to fade - to become or make sth become less intensive
baker - a person whose job is baking and selling bread and cake
lifeless - dead or appearing to be dead
bundle - a number of things tied or wrapped together
rubble - broken stones or bricks from a building or wall that has been destroyed or damaged
to crunch - to make or cause sth to make a sound like sth hard being crushed
doll - a child's toy in the shape of a person, especially a baby or a child
Ramadan - the 9th month of the Muslim year, when Muslims do not eat or drink between dawn and sunset
to flicker - to keep going on and off as it shines or burns
resolutely - in a way that shows great determination
to clamp - to hold tightly

CHAPTER 6

fireman - a person, usually a man, whose job is to put out fires
desperately - very much, especially when talking about difficult or bad situations
ambulance - a vehicle with special equipment, used to take sick or injured people to the hospital
paramedic - a person whose job is to help sick or injured people, but who is not a doctor or a nurse
to murmur - to say sth in a soft, quiet voice that is difficult to hear or understand
stretcher - a long piece of cloth with a pole at each side, used for carrying sick or injured people
crutch - one of two long sticks you put under your arm to help you walk when you have injured your leg or foot
luckily - by good luck
colleague - a person that you work with
to smuggle - to take, send or bring people or goods secretly and illegally into or out of a country
dusty - full of dust
roadblock - a barrier put up by the police or army so they can stop and search vehicles
trunk - (AE) the space at the back of a vehicle you put luggage, bags, etc. in
enviously - feeling or showing a desire to have sth that sb else has
security - the state of feeling happy and safe from danger or worry
peacetime - a period of time when a country is not at war
checkpoint - a place, especially on a border between two countries, where people have to stop so their vehicles and documents can be checked
pacifier - (AE) a specially shaped rubber or plastic object for a baby to suck

CHAPTER 7

bumpy - not even

goat - an animal with horns and a coat or hair, that lives wild in the mountains or is kept on farms

silently - without speaking

jar - a round, glass container, with a lid

fireplace - here: an outdoor structure of brick, stone, etc. for an open fire

inhabitant - a person or animal that lives in a particular place

to slaughter - here: to kill an animal for food

to console - to try to make sb feel less sadness or disappointment

fertile - producing many plants or crops

CHAPTER 8

parent-in-law - a parent of your husband or wife

mother-in-law - the mother of your husband or wife

all hell is loose - a place or state of turmoil and destruction

Christian - a person who believes in the teachings of Jesus Christ

to kidnap - to take away sb by force

to pray - to speak to God, especially to give thanks or to ask for sth

retired - not working anymore; having ended your working or professional career

steward - a person, especially a man, whose job is to serve meals and take care of passengers on an airplane, ship, etc.

baptismal - connected with baptism

pond - a small area of still water

fountain - a structure by which water is sent up in the air by a pump

swing - a seat for swinging on, hung from above by ropes or chains

cave - a large hole in the side of a hill or under the ground

Mediterranean - connected with the Mediterranean Sea or the countries surrounding it

to emigrate - to leave your own country and go and live in another country

harbor - an area of water on the coast, protected from the open sea by strong walls

entry permit - an official document that sb needs to enter a foreign country

theocracy - government of a country by religious leaders

holy - connected with God or a particular religion

to reflect - to show the image of sth/sb on the surface of sth, such as water, glass, etc.

emperor - the ruler of an empire

Silk Road - a very old trade route between China and the Mediterranean Sea

trading - the activity of buying and selling things

headquarters - a place from which an organization or a military operation is controlled

cinnamon - a spice used in cooking

CHAPTER 9

quay - a platform in a harbor where boats come in to load, etc.

to claim - (of a crash, an accident, etc.) to cause somebody's death

shipwreck - the loss or destruction of a ship at sea because of a storm or because it hits rocks, etc.

marina - a specially designed harbor for small boats and yachts
cart - (AE) a small vehicle with wheels that can be pushed or pulled along, used for carrying things
tip - a small piece of advice about sth practical
to strut - to walk proudly with your up and your chest out to show you think you are important
Merhaba - Turkish for 'hello'
to sneer - to show that you have no respect for sb by the expression on your face or way you speak
necklace - a piece of jewelry consisting of a chain, string of beads, etc. worn around the neck
sapphire - a clear, bright blue precious stone
to whisper - to speak in a very soft voice
to tiptoe - to stand or walk on the front part of your foot
light sleeper - a person who wakes from sleep easily
darkness - without any light
remote - far away from places where other people are
hoody - a jacket or sweatshirt with a hood
drum - a large container
rusty - covered with rust
shuttle - a train, bus, etc. that travels regularly between two places
duffel bag - (AE) a large bag made of strong cloth or soft leather
unlit - dark because there are no lights or the lights are not switched on

CHAPTER 10

beacon - a light that is placed somewhere to guide vehicles and warn of danger
railing - a fence made of vertical metal bars
skipper - the captain of a small ship or fishing boat
Tintin and Snowy - Tintin and Milou
cargo ship - a ship designed to carry goods
hull - the main, bottom part of a ship, that goes in the water
freshly - recently
ladder - a piece of equipment for climbing up and down a wall, the side of a building, etc.
neighborhood - a district or area of a town; the people who live there
to clamber - to climb or move with difficulty
baggage - (AE) luggage
winch - a machine for lifting or pulling heavy object, using a rope or chain
flashlight - (AE) a small electric lamp that uses batteries and that you can hold in your hand
access hatch - here: a door through which you can go below deck
blanket - a large cover, used especially on beds to keep people warm
steep - (of a hill, mountain, etc.) rising or falling quickly, not gradually
straw - stems of wheat or other grain plants that have been cut and dried
eternity - a period of time that seems very long
to vomit - to bring food from the stomach back out through the mouth
seasick - feeling ill or sick or wanting to vomit when you are travelling on a boat or ship
nowadays - at the present time, in contrast to the past
GPS - short for global positioning system, a system that shows where a person or thing is on the earth

CHAPTER 11

trafficker - a person who buys and sells sth illegally
fee - an amount of money that you pay for professional advice or services

fortune - a large amount of money
to scuttle - to sink a ship deliberately by making holes in it
coastguard - an official organization whose job is to watch the sea in order to help ships and people in trouble
lifeboat - a small boat carried on a ship in order to save the people on board if the ship sinks
life jacket - a jacket that can be filled with air, designed to help you float if you fall in water
to be stranded - unable to leave somewhere because you have no money or transport

CHAPTER 12

to assign - to give sb sth they can use
to adapt - to change sth in order to make it suitable for a new use or situation
to bet - used to say that you are almost certain that sth is true or will happen
via - through a place
stroller - (AE) a small seat on wheels in which a small child sits and is pushed along
hospitable - pleased to welcome guests; friendly and helpful to visitors
cart - a vehicle with two or four wheels pulled by a horse, used for carrying loads
van - a covered vehicle, usually smaller than a truck, used for carrying goods or people
escape agent - a person who helps people to get away from an unpleasant or dangerous situation
reception center - a place where people, especially those without a home, can get food and a bed
to blurt out - to say sth suddenly and without thinking carefully enough
shore - the land along the edge of the sea, ocean, etc.
overcrowded - with too many people or things in it
drowned - to die because you have underwater too long and you cannot breathe
freely - in an honest way without worrying about what people will say or do
to scold - to speak angrily to sb, especially a child, because they have done sth wrong

CHAPTER 13

bench - a long seat for two or more people
(the woman with the) baby tummy - the woman's 'tummy' (child's word for stomach) is large and round because there is a baby inside
to seek - to try to obtain or achieve sth
asylum - protection that a government gives people who have left their own country, usually because they were in danger
to register - to record your name on an official list
Pachisi - Parcheesi: a board game with dice that originated in India in the sixth century
Mensch ärgere dich nicht - a German game, one of the many board games that can be traced back to Pachisi
board - a piece of wood or other strong material, used for a special purpose
diplomatically - in a way that shows skill in dealing with people in difficult situations

CHAPTER 14

vending machine - here: a machine with which you can wash your clothes by putting coins into it
practical-minded - having the attitude of being sensible and realistic
to master - to learn or understand sth completely

obstacle - a situation, event, etc. that makes it difficult for you to do or achieve sth
instructor - a person whose job is to teach sb a skill or sport
gear shift (AE) - a device that is moved to change gears in a car, on a bicycle, etc.
bouquet - a group of flowers that are picked and often tied together
to insist - to demand that sth happens or that sb agrees to do sth
brake - a device for slowing or stopping a vehicle
chalk - a substance made into white or colored sticks for writing or drawing
cone - a plastic object with a round, flat base and sides that slope up to a point, used on roads to show where vehicles are not allowed to go
intersection - a place where two or more roads cross each other
penalty - a punishment for breaking a law, rule or contract

CHAPTER 15

to creep - to move slowly and quietly, especially in order not to be noticed
innocent - suffering harm or being killed because of a war, crime, etc. although not directly involved in it
lap - the top part of your legs that forms a flat surface when you are sitting down
homesick - sad because you are away from home and miss your family and friends
war-torn - a ~ country or area is strongly affected by the fighting that is taking place there
desperation - very sad or upset because of having little or no hope
wounded - injured by a weapon
former - used to say what sb or sth was in the past
hometown - the country where sb was born or grew up
resolutely - very determined
pumped up - filled with enthusiasm or excitement
laughter - the action or sound of laughing
war zone - a region in which a war is being fought
daily - happening, done or produced every day
renewal - a situation in which sth begins again after a pause or an interruption
residence permit - permission to live in a country which is not your own

CHAPTER 16

Alster - the part of the Elbe River that forms two lakes in the middle of Hamburg
steamboat - a boat driven by steam
ferry - a boat or ship that carries people, vehicles and goods across a river or a narrow part of the sea
warship - a ship used in war
to devour - to read or look at sth with great interest and enthusiasm
to enlarge - to make a bigger copy of a photo or document
bald-headed - having little or no hair on the head
shabby - in poor condition because they have been used a lot
beggar - a person who lives by asking people for money or food
homework - work that is given by teachers for students to do at home
to swell - to be filled with a strong emotion
doorbell - a bell with a button outside a house that you push to let them know that you are there
to hug - to put your arms around sb and hold them tightly

Paul Davenport, www.davenport-stories.de