Words for Memory and Peace: Key Vocabulary

Using English to understand Colombia's conflict and build peace

Section 1: Introduction (How to use this vocabulary)

Temporal Grammar Rules
Use the past tense to discuss the history of the conflict and the present tense to discuss ongoing peacebuilding efforts.

Connective Flow
Use linking words to bridge ideas and create a coherent narrative of history and progress.

Section 2: Nouns (Key Ideas)

Conflict and History
armed conflict, violence, displacement, victims, war, loss, trauma.

Peace and Society
peace agreement, reconciliation, justice, reparation, peacebuilding, community, human rights.

Memory and Truth
memory, history, testimony, truth, narrative.

Section 3: Verbs (Actions)

Past (Conflict Actions)
suffer, experience, lose, witness, displace, affect.

(e.g., "People suffered during the conflict.")

Present (Peacebuilding Actions)
rebuild, support, promote, protect, remember, demand.

(e.g., "Communities rebuild their lives.")

Critical Processes
reconcile, reintegrate, repair, transform, heal.

(e.g., "Society must heal after violence.")

Section 4: Adjectives (Descriptions)

Descriptive Attributes
violent / peaceful, dangerous / safe, rural / urban, devastated, hopeful, historical.

Contextual Usage
It was a violent conflict.

Now communities are more peaceful.

Section 5: Linking Words (Connecting Ideas)

Essential Connectors
and, although, because, but, for example, however, therefore, in addition, so, then.

Narrative Construction
(e.g., "Many people suffered because of the conflict.")

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