Refugee Lesson Vocabulary

1. **Refugee** - A person who leaves his or her country due to a well-founded fear of persecution because of his or her race, religion, nationality, political views, or membership in a particular social group. People fleeing conflicts are also generally considered to be refugees since they are seeking refuge (safety). Refugees have specific rights and protections under international law. For example, refugees have the right to not be forced to return to the unsafe situation that they fled. Refugees have the rights of security and freedom of movement. They have the right to keep their family together. Similarly, countries that have refugees seeking asylum in their territory have specific responsibilities under international law for the treatment of those refugees ([Choices.edu](http://www.choices.edu/resources/twtn/documents/choices-twtn-refugees-key-terms.pdf))
2. **Migrant** — A person who moves to a foreign country for various reasons—for example, for employment, education, or to reunite with family—usually for a year or more. Unlike refugees, migrants do not face a direct threat of persecution or death in their home country. ([Choices.edu](http://www.choices.edu/resources/twtn/documents/choices-twtn-refugees-key-terms.pdf)) Often, it is used for people currently on the move or people with temporary status or no status at all in the country where they live. It tends to be applied to people at the bottom of the economic ladder. For example, we don’t often hear of migrant businessmen ([Canadian Council for Refugees](http://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/static-files/glossary.PDF))
3. **Immigrant** – a person who has settled permanently in another country. Immigrants choose to move, whereas refugees are forced to flee ([Canadian Council for Refugees](http://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/static-files/glossary.PDF))
4. **Asylum**—Shelter or protection from danger granted by a country to someone forced to leave their home country ([Choices.edu](http://www.choices.edu/resources/twtn/documents/choices-twtn-refugees-key-terms.pdf))
5. **Host Country**—The country to which a refugee relocates ([Choices.edu](http://www.choices.edu/resources/twtn/documents/choices-twtn-refugees-key-terms.pdf))
6. **Humanitarian** - of or relating to the promotion of popular welfare ([Vocabulary.com](https://www.vocabulary.com/lists/768219))
7. **Displace** - cause to move, usually with force or pressure ([Vocabulary.com](https://www.vocabulary.com/lists/768219))
8. **Border** - to lie adjacent to another or share a boundary ([Vocabulary.com](https://www.vocabulary.com/lists/768219))
9. **Asylum-seeker** – a person who is seeking asylum. Until a determination is made, it is impossible to say whether the asylum-seeker is a refugee or not ([Canadian Council for Refugees](http://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/static-files/glossary.PDF))
10. **Internally Displaced Person** – A person who is forcibly uprooted within his or her country but who has not crossed an international border. IDPs may be forced from their home as a result of armed conflict, human rights violations, or natural or human-made disasters, yet remain in their country ([Choices.edu](http://www.choices.edu/resources/twtn/documents/choices-twtn-refugees-key-terms.pdf))
11. **Stateless person** – a person who is not recognized as a citizen by any state. Some refugees may be stateless but not all are, and similarly not all stateless people are refugees ([Canadian Council for Refugees](http://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/static-files/glossary.PDF))
12. **Foreign National** - a person who is not a naturalized citizen of the country in which they are living ([Canadian Council for Refugees](http://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/static-files/glossary.PDF))
13. **Undocumented** – a person who has not been granted permission to stay in the country, or has overstayed their visa ([Canadian Council for Refugees](http://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/static-files/glossary.PDF))
14. **Illegal migrant/illegal immigrant** – these terms are considered problematic because they criminalize the person, rather than the act of entering or remaining irregularly in a country. Using the term can also have the disadvantage of prejudging the status of the person. If a person is fleeing as a refugee, international law recognizes that they may need to enter a country without authorization and it would therefore be misleading to describe them as an “illegal migrant”. Similarly, a person irregularly in the country may have been coerced by traffickers: such a person should be recognized as a victim of crime, not a wrong-doer ([Canadian Council for Refugees](http://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/static-files/glossary.PDF))
15. **Illegal** – this term is similarly problematic, because it transfers the illegality from the status to the person. Its use has provoked as a response the slogan “no one is illegal” ([Canadian Council for Refugees](http://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/static-files/glossary.PDF))
16. **Alien** – this term is used in some countries, notably the US, to designate non-citizens. Many people find the term dehumanizing ([Canadian Council for Refugees](http://ccrweb.ca/sites/ccrweb.ca/files/static-files/glossary.PDF))