# Coronavirus and language

**Exercise 1**. Read the following extracts: what kind of language is used to talk about coronavirus? What do you think about this type of language?

*“The soldiers in this fight are our health care professionals. It’s the doctors, it’s the nurses, it’s the people who are working in the hospitals, it’s the aids. They are the soldiers who are fighting this battle for us.” (NY Governor Andrew Cuomo)*

*“We are at war with a virus – and not winning it. …This war needs a war-time plan to fight it.” (United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Gutiérrez)*

**Exercise 2.** Read this article <https://theconversation.com/war-metaphors-used-for-covid-19-are-compelling-but-also-dangerous-135406> and answer the following questions:

1. What examples of metaphor are given in the article?
2. What are the dangers of this type of language?

**Exercise 3.** Watch this video: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/coronavirus-emily-maitlis-newsnight-bbc-inequality-boris-johnson-a9456696.html> . In the video, journalist Emily Maitlis talks about the rhetoric used to describe the fight against coronavirus. Watch it twice: what is her main point?

**Exercise 4.** Now watch the video here with subtitles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E_ncTF8m9aY>. What parts had you missed or misunderstood? Find at least two examples.