

Name:

Day One

Injured in Iraq

Part 1: Silent read

➔ Soldiers in the Iraq War suffered new patterns of injuries from IEDs. Read silently.

It was November 29, 2004. An American Humvee was on patrol outside Baghdad. *The New York Times* explained what happened next. Suddenly, an explosion rocked the Humvee. It was an IED. Specialist Daniel Swift was one of the soldiers inside the vehicle. Shrapnel flew into his right eye and both legs. Bleeding badly, he saw that another soldier was choking. He cleared the soldier's airway, saving his life. They dug in and waited for help to appear.

The IED was the most dangerous weapon of the Iraq War. IEDs left many veterans with a unique pattern of injuries. U.S. soldiers usually had body armor. This protected their chests and stomachs. It helped many soldiers survive deadly blasts. However, their faces, arms, and legs were unprotected. Many survivors came home with brain injuries, missing limbs, and burns.

J.R. Martinez is an Iraq War veteran. As a 19-year-old soldier, he was trapped in a burning Humvee. Afterward, doctors worked hard to save him. After three years of treatment, one ear was gone, and his handsome face was covered with scars. In 2008, he got a role on the TV soap opera *All My Children*. He played veteran Brot Monroe. His burns reminded many Americans about the continued cost of the war. In 2010, Martinez spoke to the *Los Angeles Times* about his TV career. "I know what I'm here for," he said. "I'm here for all the people who are fighting the war, who have scars inside and out."

Sources: "Six soldiers are awarded purple hearts for their service in Iraq," *The New York Times*, April, 24, 2005.

"Iraq was nothing like this: Army vet J.R. Martinez has gone from land-mine victim to a soap opera star," *Los Angeles Times*, June 27, 2010.



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// one minute

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What kinds of injuries do wounded Iraq War veterans tend to have?

What piece of equipment helped many soldiers survive IED blasts?

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Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

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The IED was the most dangerous weapon of the Iraq War. // IEDs left many veterans / with a unique pattern of injuries. // U.S. soldiers usually had body armor. // This protected their chests and stomachs. // It helped many soldiers survive deadly blasts. // However, / their faces, / arms, / and legs were unprotected. // Many survivors came home with brain injuries, / missing limbs, / and burns. //

J.R. Martinez is an Iraq War veteran. // As a 19-year-old soldier, / he was trapped in a burning Humvee. // Afterward, / doctors worked hard to save him. // After three years of treatment, / one ear was gone, / and his handsome face was covered with scars. // In 2008, / he got a role on the TV soap opera / *All My Children*. // He played veteran Brot Monroe. // His burns reminded many Americans / about the continued cost of the war. // In 2010, / Martinez spoke to the *Los Angeles Times* / about his TV career. // “I know what I’m here for,” / he said. // “I’m here for all the people who are fighting the war, / who have scars inside and out.” //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.