

Name:

Day One

Keeping in Touch

Part 1: Silent read

➔ How did soldiers use technology to stay in touch with people back home?
Read silently.

Marine Marcus Penn spent eight months in Iraq. He used email to keep in close contact with his family. In 2010, Penn was featured on *NBC News*. The story detailed how soldiers in Iraq used technology to stay in touch. “My wife still has my emails,” he said. “I sent 1,845 from the day I left to the day I got back.”

Communication was not always simple. Soldiers sometimes had to wait in line to use computers. Phone signals were not always strong.

When they worked well, however, phones and computers held great value for soldiers in Iraq. Some servicemen and women posted on Facebook every day. Photo sharing websites like Picasa were also important. Soldiers could download pictures of their children doing everyday things. The images helped them feel closer to family life back at home. Penn commented, “You realized the world was still out there.”

One father serving in Iraq connected to his daughter’s third grade class through Skype. Students were able to ask Macy Barker’s father questions. One student asked about the weather that day in Iraq. “Warm and getting hotter,” Macy’s dad reported.

Even when soldiers could call home every day, however, some things went unsaid. Families didn’t always share bad news like job losses or children’s misbehavior. Soldiers didn’t always share stories about bombings and IED explosions. On both sides, worried thoughts and feelings were sometimes hidden behind jokes and light chitchat.

Sources: “Staying in touch with loved ones during war,” *NBC News*, February 26, 2010.

“Live from Iraq via Skype: Soldier visits daughter’s third grade class,” *York Dispatch*, March 2011.



Day One

// one minute

Keeping in Touch

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Communication was not always simple. Soldiers sometimes had to wait in line to use computers. Phone signals were not always strong. 76
83

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109
121
136
147

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175
187

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213
226
237

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What are some of the new ways that soldiers in the Iraq War stayed in touch with loved ones?

What problems did soldiers face when trying to use computers and phones in Iraq?

Day One

Keeping in Touch

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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Communication was not always simple. // Soldiers sometimes had to wait in line to use computers. // Phone signals were not always strong. //

When they worked well, / however, / phones and computers held great value for soldiers in Iraq. // Some servicemen and women posted on Facebook every day. / Photo sharing websites like Picasa were also important. // Soldiers could download pictures of their children / doing everyday things. // The images helped them feel closer to family life / back at home. // Penn commented, / “You realized the world was still out there.” //

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Even when soldiers could call home every day, / however, / some things went unsaid. // Families didn’t always share bad news / like job losses / or children’s misbehavior. // Soldiers didn’t always share stories / about bombings / and IED explosions. // On both sides, / worried thoughts and feelings were sometimes hidden behind jokes / and light chitchat. //

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