

Name:

Day One

Women in Combat?

Part 1: Silent read

➔ No women in combat? Find out how this rule changed. Read silently.

One day in November 2004, Army Captain Tammy Duckworth was flying a Black Hawk helicopter in Iraq. Suddenly, a rocket-propelled grenade slammed against the helicopter. Duckworth was badly injured, losing both of her legs and most of her right arm.

In October 2003, Specialist Shavodsha Hodges was in a supply convoy in northern Iraq when an IED hit. Her armored truck began to roll over, nearly crushing her friend, Private Gregory Burchett. Hodges acted fast. She pulled Burchett to safety. Just then, the shooting started. Hodges used her own body to shield her friend from the bullets. She was commended by the Army for her courage.

Despite the brave acts of women like Duckworth and Hodges during the Iraq War, the U.S. military still had rules against women fighting on the front lines. Many people said this made no sense. The Iraq War was a different kind of war. There were no front lines and no safe zones. Attacks could come at the barracks, driving down the road, or walking down the street. In 2005, Lieutenant Colonel Cheri Provanha told *The Washington Post*, “You can’t tell me I’m not being shot at. You can’t tell me I can’t handle combat.”

In 2013, the U.S. military heard these voices and lifted the ban on women in combat. Even elite commando units would now be open to women. A defense official told *CNN* that women were ready. “We know they can do it,” he said.

Sources: “Military to open combat jobs to women,” *CNN*, January 23, 2013.

“For female GIs, combat is a fact,” *The Washington Post*, May 13, 2005.

“Iraq War veteran Tammy Duckworth, the Comeback Artist,” *US News*, May 25, 2012.



Day One

// one minute

Women in Combat?

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What made the Iraq War different?

How did Specialist Hodges protect her friend?

Day One

Women in Combat?

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.

One day in November 2004, / Army Captain Tammy Duckworth was flying a Black Hawk helicopter / in Iraq. // Suddenly, / a rocket-propelled grenade slammed against the helicopter. // Duckworth was badly injured, / losing both of her legs / and most of her right arm. //

In October 2003, / Specialist Shavodsha Hodges was in a supply convoy in northern Iraq / when an IED hit. // Her armored truck began to roll over, / nearly crushing her friend, / Private Gregory Burchett. // Hodges acted fast. // She pulled Burchett to safety. // Just then, / the shooting started. // Hodges used her own body / to shield her friend from the bullets. // She was commended by the Army for her courage. //

Despite the brave acts of women like Duckworth and Hodges / during the Iraq War, / the U.S. military still had rules against women fighting on the front lines. // Many people said this made no sense. // The Iraq War was a different kind of war. // There were no front lines / and no safe zones. // Attacks could come at the barracks, / driving down the road, / or walking down the street. // In 2005, / Lieutenant Colonel Cheri Provanha told *The Washington Post*, / “You can’t tell me I’m not being shot at. // You can’t tell me I can’t handle combat.” //

In 2013, / the U.S. military heard these voices / and lifted the ban on women in combat. // Even elite commando units would now be open to women. // A defense official told *CNN* that women were ready. // “We know they can do it,” / he said. //

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