

Name:

Day Two

Cheer in the Mail

Part 1: Tricky phrases and words



→ Read these phrases and words **out loud** to your partner.

- Carolyn found herself thinking about the soldiers fighting overseas
- She started fundraising and planning
- contain personal items that can be hard to find overseas
- are serious expressions of thanks from U.S. veterans
- received an Operation Gratitude package while serving in Afghanistan

- Carolyn **KAIR** | uh | lin
- Blashek **BLA** | shik
- Gratitude **GRA** | tih | tood
- expressions ek | **SPREH** | shunz
- veterans **VET** | er | unz
- received rih | **SEEVD**
- Afghanistan af | **GAN** | ih | stan



Decoding practice:

Part 1

Look for two consonants together in the middle of the word.

- Underline the middle two consonants
- Draw a line between the two consonants

Part 2

- Underline the vowel combo
- Write a long vowel sign $\bar{\text{ }}$ on top of the first vowel in the combo
- Cross out the second vowel in the combo

The first one is done for you.

t $\bar{\text{e}}$ am|work

volunteers

overseas

contain

upbeat

appeal



Day Two

// one minute

Cheer in the Mail

Part 2: Last read

WPM _____

The September 11 attacks and the wars that followed made many Americans feel like they wanted to help out and give back. One of these Americans was Carolyn Blashek.

In 2003, as the Iraq War began, Carolyn found herself thinking about the soldiers fighting overseas. Did they feel forgotten by the people back home? She started fundraising and planning. She began Operation Gratitude, a group that sends care packages to soldiers.	44 58 71
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Packages from Operation Gratitude contain personal items that can be hard to find overseas, like lotion and toothpaste. The packages also hold goodies that appeal to soldiers, like cookies, candy, and books.	84 97 103
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Many packages also hold letters. Some of the letters are serious expressions of thanks from U.S. veterans. Others come from children, written in crayon. The writers make sure their letters are upbeat and personal, letting soldiers know that they are in the hearts of people back home.	117 131 147 150
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Operation Gratitude grew quickly. Thousands of volunteers heard about the project and came to help. Their effort and teamwork brought treats and cheer to soldiers around the world. In 2013, the group mailed its one-millionth package.	162 177 187
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Staff Sergeant Matthew Gomez received an Operation Gratitude package while serving in Afghanistan. He told <i>NPR</i> , “It’s just a good feeling to know that someone else is thinking of you . . . For soldiers, it’s a big deal, receiving something from back home.”	199 215 228
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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

If you were going to send a care package to cheer up a soldier overseas, what would you put in it?

Share your answer with your partner. What does your partner think?