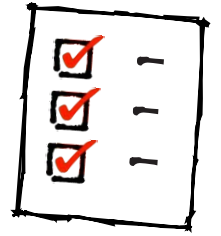


Name:

## Day Two

# A Letter Home

### Part 1: Tricky phrases and words



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

- It's a struggle to think of anything to put into a letter
- this firsthand perspective on the war
- The Marine was exhausted
- He told about his respect for Iraqi policemen
- There are no truly happy moments here
  
- exhausted                      ig | **ZAWS** | tid
- defused                          dih | **FYOOZD**
- rescue                              **RES** | kyoo
- California                        kal | ih | **FOR** | nyuh
- eventually                        ih | **VEN** | choo | uh | lee



### 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

de|gre|ne

rescue

#### 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

obtain

subdue

appeal

The first one is done for you. Read the word to your partner. Chunk and blend the syllables. Use a long vowel sound for the vowel combo.

canteen



# Day Two A Letter Home

// one minute

## Part 2: Last read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

In September 2006, a young Marine in Iraq wrote a letter to a few friends and family members. “It’s a struggle to think of anything to put into a letter,” he wrote. In fact, this letter appealed to people. They passed it along to friends. Eventually, the letter was printed in *Time* magazine. Many Americans wanted to hear this firsthand perspective on the war.

The Marine was exhausted. He said, “I work 18 to 20 hour days, every day.” Still, he shared funny stories. He stocked up on Diet Coke at the canteen just before a rocket blew up the soda supply for the entire base. He said, “Worst smell—porta-johns in 120-degree heat.”

However, most of his news was sad and subdued. Every time he heard a crack-boom in the distance, he knew it was an IED going off. He told about his respect for Iraqi policemen, and for the experts who defused bombs. He wrote about the death of a friend. “He was a great Marine,” he said. “I felt crushed for a long time afterward.”

A high for his unit was helping to rescue a U.S. reporter who had been kidnapped. Obtaining her release was a huge thrill.

The young Marine also wrote about his happiest moment. “Well, it wasn’t in Iraq. It was back in California, when I was able to hold my family again,” he said. “There are no truly happy moments here.”

## Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

Why do you think so many people were interested in this letter?

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Read your answer to your partner. Can you add anything together to your answer?

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