

Name:



## Day Two

# Soldier Moms

### Part 1: Tricky phrases and words

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

- women soldiers spoke out on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*
- her daughter had to stay with Eva's ex-husband
- Eva paid for lawyers to appeal the case
- You've abandoned your family
- that soldiers in wartime get their jobs back

- |                                    |                        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oprah     | <b>OH</b>   prah       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winfrey   | <b>WIN</b>   free      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> soldiers  | <b>SOHL</b>   jerz     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> custody   | <b>KUS</b>   tuh   dee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> received  | rih   <b>SEEVD</b>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> message   | <b>MES</b>   ij        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> abandoned | uh   <b>BAN</b>   dund |



### Decoding practice:

- Underline the vowel combo in the words below
- Write a long vowel sign  $\bar{\quad}$  above the first vowel in the vowel combo
- Put a slash / through the second vowel in the vowel combo

Then read the word to your partner. Make the first vowel long (it says its name).  
Make the second vowel silent. The first one has been done for you.

really

pleaded

argues

appeal

strain

overseas



# Day Two Soldier Moms

// one minute

## Part 2: Last read

WPM \_\_\_\_\_

In 2010, women soldiers spoke out on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*. They had just returned from Iraq. War was hard, they reported. However, their problems really started once they came home. They had lost custody of their children!

When soldiers go to war, they can't take their children. One mother, Eva, was sent to Iraq. She left her daughter, Sara, with her ex-husband. But when Eva came home, her ex-husband went to court. He would not let Sara move back with her mother. 54  
Iraq. She left her daughter, Sara, with her ex-husband. But when Eva came home, her ex-husband went to court. He would not let Sara move back with her mother. 71  
husband went to court. He would not let Sara move back with her mother. 85

Eva pleaded to get her daughter back. But the judge said her daughter had to stay with Eva's ex-husband. Eva paid for lawyers to appeal the case. After two years, she got her daughter back. "She was 9 when I left. She was 12 when I got her back," Eva reported. 102  
Eva's ex-husband. Eva paid for lawyers to appeal the case. After two years, she got her daughter back. "She was 9 when I left. She was 12 when I got her back," Eva reported. 119  
daughter back. "She was 9 when I left. She was 12 when I got her back," Eva reported. 137

Another soldier, Margaret, was serving in Iraq when she received a message from her husband. He said, "You've abandoned your family. You know, I'm done." He wanted a divorce. He also wanted custody of their three children. Margaret told Oprah that she felt helpless. 151  
husband. He said, "You've abandoned your family. You know, I'm done." He wanted a divorce. He also wanted custody of their three children. Margaret told Oprah that she felt helpless. 165  
divorce. He also wanted custody of their three children. Margaret told Oprah that she felt helpless. 179  
felt helpless. 181

Eva is trying to change the laws. She wants to protect other soldiers like her. She points out that soldiers in wartime get their jobs back when they return. They even get phone contracts back. This mom argues that soldiers should get their children back, too. 198  
out that soldiers in wartime get their jobs back when they return. They even get phone contracts back. This mom argues that soldiers should get their children back, too. 214  
contracts back. This mom argues that soldiers should get their children back, too. 227

Fear about losing their children puts a big strain on women soldiers. Can we reward their service overseas by promising they can keep their children? 243  
service overseas by promising they can keep their children? 252

## Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What do you think? Should women soldiers always get their children back after they fight overseas?

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

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