

Name:

Day One

Staying Connected

Part 1: Silent read

➔ How did soldiers in Iraq stay in touch with their families? Read silently.

Marine Marcus Penn saw new pictures of his infant daughter on a photo-sharing website. Specialist Kevin Groll was part of Thanksgiving dinner via a webcam placed at the family table. Staff Sergeant Thomas Davidick Jr. saw his newborn son for the first time in an online video. What did these three men have in common? They were all serving in Iraq.

Through email, cell phones, Skype, and Facebook, soldiers in Iraq stayed in close contact with loved ones. Some sent emails or chatted online every day. A soldier could be in a firefight in the morning and text his girlfriend about it over lunch.

The new technology had a positive impact on soldiers' morale. Marcus Penn said that older soldiers were amazed. "They'd say, 'When I was in Desert Storm, we didn't have email. I went for a month and a half without talking to my family,'" Penn said when he was on the *Today Show*. Younger soldiers told the older soldiers that times had changed. We'd say, 'Welcome to the 21st century,'" Penn remembered.

Some soldiers wrote blogs about their Iraq experiences. They were called "milblogs," short for military blogs. Milblogs told day by day what it was like to fight in Iraq. Readers could follow the war from a soldier's point of view.

The military tells service members what they can and cannot share. If they say too much, soldiers may face punishment. In some cases, soldiers' blogs were shut down because they gave sensitive or secret information.

Source: "Staying in touch with loved ones during the war: Today's military men and women have lots of technological options," *MSNBC (The Today Show)*, February 26, 2010.



Day One

// one minute

Staying Connected

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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62

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93
105

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134
152
167
176

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205
216

The military tells service members what they can and cannot share. If they say too much, soldiers may face punishment. In some cases, soldiers' blogs were shut down because they gave sensitive or secret information. 232
245
251

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What were some of the new ways that soldiers in Iraq stayed in touch with home?

What's a milblog?

Day One

Staying Connected

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.

Marine Marcus Penn saw new pictures of his infant daughter / on a photo-sharing website. // Specialist Kevin Groll was part of Thanksgiving dinner / via a webcam placed at the family table. // Staff Sergeant Thomas Davidick Jr. saw his newborn son for the first time / in an online video. // What did these three men have in common? // They were all serving in Iraq. //

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The military tells service members / what they can / and cannot share. // If they say too much, / soldiers may face punishment. // In some cases, / soldiers' blogs were shut down / because they gave sensitive / or secret information. //

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