

Name:

Day One

Bomb Experts in Iraq

Part 1: Silent read

→ Find out about the brave soldiers that disarm IEDs. Read silently.

Improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, were the number one killer of U.S. soldiers in the Iraq War. IEDs are homemade bombs. In Iraq, they were everywhere. Insurgents buried IEDs along the roadside. They strapped them to their bodies and hid them under cars. At the peak of the war, U.S. soldiers faced over 100 IEDs each day. IEDs killed soldiers and civilians but also caused terrible injuries.

The soldiers who work to disarm IEDs are called explosive ordnance disposal technicians, or EODs. EODs work in teams of two or three. Their goal is simple: they disarm bombs before they explode.

EOD units have many ways to find hidden IEDs. They use dogs, sensors, and metal detectors. Sometimes they use robots to disarm bombs. Other times, the EODs put on 70-pound bomb suits, approach the bomb, and disarm it by hand.

To join an EOD team, soldiers volunteer. Brian Castner wrote *The Long Walk*, about serving with an EOD team in Iraq. Castner also talked to *NPR* about his experiences.

Although the goal was to disarm bombs, bombs would often explode as the team was working. Castner suffered brain injury and memory loss from being close to so many bomb blasts. He lost some of his hearing and could not sleep well. Talking about how he felt, Castner said, “Crazy was the best way to describe it.” Although EODs saved many lives, they paid a steep price.

Source: “The life that follows: Disarming IEDs in Iraq,” *NPR*, July 8, 2012.



Day One

// one minute

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Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What do EODs do?

Why can EODs suffer brain injury and memory loss?

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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.

Improvised explosive devices, / or IEDs, / were the number one killer of U.S. soldiers in the Iraq War. // IEDs are homemade bombs. // In Iraq, / they were everywhere. // Insurgents buried IEDs along the roadside. // They strapped them to their bodies / and hid them under cars. // At the peak of the war, / U.S. soldiers faced over 100 IEDs each day. // IEDs killed soldiers and civilians / but also caused terrible injuries. //

The soldiers who work to disarm IEDS / are called explosive ordnance disposal technicians, / or EODs. // EODs work in teams of two or three. // Their goal is simple: / they disarm bombs before they explode. //

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