

Name:

Day One

Entertaining the Troops

Part 1: Silent read

→ Find out how entertainers supported U.S. troops in Iraq. Read silently.

In June 2003, the Iraq War was just three months old. U.S. soldiers gathered in the Baghdad airport for something different. They had a special visitor. It was music star Kid Rock, who played a concert just for them.

Kid Rock is just one of many celebrities who visited U.S. forces during the Iraq War. Most came with the United Services Organization, or USO. The USO brings entertainment to U.S. troops serving all over the world. The USO motto is “Until Every One Comes Home.”

Other celebrities who performed in Iraq were rapper 50 Cent, singer Jessica Simpson, and the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders. Comedian Stephen Colbert even taped his show, *The Colbert Report*, in Iraq. To show his support of the troops and their military haircuts, Colbert shaved his head on camera.

Performing in Iraq could be difficult. Temperatures were sometimes 120 degrees. Iraq was a war zone, and danger was never far away. Singer Toby Keith did many USO tours. Once, on a flight out of Iraq, he sat next to the coffin of a fallen soldier.

In spite of sadness and heat, many USO performers said they loved their time in Iraq. Some came back again and again. They wanted to say “thanks” and connect with the troops. Comedian Robin Williams did several tours with the USO in Iraq and Afghanistan as well. He told a reporter, “It’s some of the best audiences you’ll ever get in your life.”

Source: “Good Morning, Iraq,” *SF Gate*, February 9, 2005.



Day One

// one minute

Entertaining the Troops

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

How does the USO support U.S. troops in a war zone?

What was one challenge of performing in Iraq?

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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.

In June 2003, / the Iraq War was just three months old. // U.S. soldiers gathered in the Baghdad airport / for something different. // They had a special visitor. // It was music star Kid Rock, / who played a concert just for them. //

Kid Rock is just one of many celebrities who visited U.S. forces / during the Iraq War. // Most came with the United Services Organization, / or USO. // The USO brings entertainment to U.S. troops / serving all over the world. // The USO motto is / “Until Every One Comes Home.” //

Other celebrities who performed in Iraq / were rapper 50 Cent, / singer Jessica Simpson, / and the Dallas Cowboys cheerleaders. // Comedian Stephen Colbert even taped his show, / *The Colbert Report*, / in Iraq. // To show his support of the troops and their military haircuts, / Colbert shaved his head on camera. //

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In spite of sadness and heat, / many USO performers said they loved their time in Iraq. // Some returned again and again. // They wanted to say “thanks” / and connect with the troops. // Comedian Robin Williams did several tours with the USO / in Iraq and Afghanistan as well. // He told a reporter, / “It’s some of the best audiences / you’ll ever get in your life.” //

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