

Name:

Day One

EODs: The Toughest Job

Part 1: Silent read

→ Find out about the toughest military job in Iraq. Read silently.

Improvised Explosive Devices, or IEDs, were the number one killer of U.S. soldiers during the Iraq War. IEDs are homemade bombs. In Iraq, they popped up everywhere. Insurgents buried IEDs along the roadside, put them on suicide bombers, and hid them in cars. At the peak of the war, U.S. soldiers serving all over Iraq faced over 100 IEDs each day.

The soldiers who work to disarm IEDs are called Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians, or EODs. EODs work in two- to three-person teams. They perform a dangerous job: they disarm bombs before they explode. The work of EODs in Iraq was featured in the movie *The Hurt Locker*.

EOD units use robots, dogs, sensors, and metal detectors to find IEDs. Sometimes robots can be used to disarm bombs. Other times, the EODs must strap on 70-pound bomb suits, approach the bomb, and disarm it themselves.

EOD teams have a demanding job. Writer Mark Boal wrote *The Hurt Locker* after spending time with an EOD unit in Iraq. He told *CBS News* that EODs have a special kind of mental toughness. “They have to have a mindset that enables them to be calm under extreme stress,” he explained.

To join an EOD team, soldiers must volunteer. Some soldiers choose to become EODs because they enjoy the sense of adventure. Retired EOD Henry Engelhardt told *CNN*, “It’s the best fun thing in the world, a continuing challenge . . . You’re up against the mind of another person.”

Sources: “Most dangerous job in the world?,” *CBS News*, July 3, 2009.

“Inside the heads of ‘Hurt Locker’ bomb defusers,” *CNN*, March 5, 2010.



Day One

// one minute

EODs: The Toughest Job

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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61

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87
102
109

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139
147

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178
194
199

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226
242
245

Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What do EOD teams do?

Why do people choose to volunteer for such dangerous work?

Day One

EODs: The Toughest Job

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 during the Iraq War. // IEDs are homemade bombs. // In Iraq, / they popped up everywhere. // Insurgents buried IEDs along the roadside, / put them on suicide bombers, / and hid them in cars. // At the peak of the war, / U.S. soldiers serving all over Iraq faced over 100 IEDs each day. //

The soldiers who work to disarm IEDs / are called Explosive Ordnance Disposal technicians, / or EODs. // EODs work in two- to three-person teams. // They perform a dangerous job: / they disarm bombs before they explode. // The work of EODs in Iraq / was featured in the movie, / *The Hurt Locker*. //

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