

PART I: READING

- 1.1** Read the passage of a letter from a soldier who has just completed a tour of duty in Iraq. Check (✓) the best prediction of what the reading is about. There is only one right answer.

The real challenge is the war. I do think that my experiences are making me a stronger person, though, and I was already pretty tough. The Army teaches you to maintain your focus, even in stressful situations. I have learned that you need to be prepared at all times for action. Also, I've developed even more admiration for our troops—officers and enlisted alike.

- _____ A. how to join the Army
_____ B. what the writer learned from her experience in the Army
_____ C. how the writer managed stress
_____ D. what action to take in a war

- 1.2** Now read the entire letter. Use the information to choose the correct answers.

Letter from a Soldier

Hi, Rita,

Thank you for writing me the other day! It was great to hear from you. Yes, I did get one letter from you while I was in Iraq. Anyway, I feel so bad! I'm sorry I never got back to you.

To answer your question, yes, the Army is tough. Actually, it's not just the Army. The real challenge is the war. I do think that my experiences are making me a stronger person, though, and I was already pretty tough. The Army teaches you to maintain your focus, even in stressful situations. I have learned that you need to be prepared at all times for action. Also, I've developed even more admiration for our troops—officers and enlisted alike.

Our jobs take a lot of bravery. Mine is a supply unit, so our missions take us close to the front line sometimes. We supply combat units with ammunition and basic necessities, and we see a lot of destruction along the way. We've taken casualties as well—a friend of mine was killed when our convoy hit a roadside bomb. The suffering was dreadful, but I stayed strong and didn't let myself cry about it. I kept trying to remember that we are here for an important purpose, and we are serving our country. The loss is hard, so it makes us appreciate the support and the camaraderie. It also makes me appreciate my own survival.

Seeing war really makes me appreciate the freedom I have at home. I love being with my son and husband, and the life we have here. My son is growing up so fast!

(continued on next page)

When I left he was just two months old. I can't believe my son is already walking and saying a few words. Just yesterday he said, "Momma, play toy."

As you know, I won't be in the States for long. I just got a letter from my battalion, and we are scheduled to return to Iraq "within six months." That will be hard. Still, at least I know now that my family can survive without me. One day I will probably return to being a civilian and full-time mother, but I really feel that for now the greatest achievement is to serve my country. I know that may be hard for some people to understand.

I'm looking forward to seeing you while I'm home.

Love,

Jenna

Check (✓) the best answer.

1. Wartime service has taught Jenna all of the following *except*

_____.

- ___ A. to stay centered even under stress
- ___ B. to respect her fellow soldiers
- ___ C. to appreciate the importance of preparation
- ___ D. to realize that her family is her main priority

2. Jenna's battalion _____.

- ___ A. transports supplies
- ___ B. participates in combat on the front line
- ___ C. searches for roadside bombs
- ___ D. manages injured soldiers and casualties

3. When Jenna's friend died, what did she tell herself?

- ___ A. Camaraderie would give her strength.
- ___ B. She would quit the Army as soon as she could.
- ___ C. Her friend's death had a purpose in helping her country.
- ___ D. Soldiers don't have time to cry about loss.

4. What does Jenna mean when she says, "Still, at least I know now that my family can survive without me"?
- _____ A. She is glad that the war is not being fought in the United States.
 - _____ B. Even without Jenna at home, her family is okay.
 - _____ C. Now that her son is older, her husband is having an easier time.
 - _____ D. She will probably die if she returns to Iraq.

1.3 Read the letter from "Women at War" in NorthStar: Reading and Writing 5, Unit 8. Use the information from this reading and "Letter from a Soldier" to complete the activity. The first one has been done for you.

Women at War

I am a 27-year-old soldier in the U.S. Army. Being in a Patriot [missile] unit, we have to move quite frequently. I saw torched bunkers, vehicles, shells from ammunition. It was truly unreal. The Iraqi soldiers were barely living from day to day on beans and rice. You could tell that they weren't expecting such an early ground war because they left their boots behind. You could also tell that an Allied tank not only shot at the bunker but ran right over the top of it. That is the price these soldiers had to pay. The thoughts that ran through me almost made me cry.

I honestly don't believe I'll continue my career in the Army, not because of the war but because the Army is tough and if you don't get tough with it and become strong, you are lost. I've learned to respect others, to survive in whatever conditions arise.

For those women who think that the service is for them, please think seriously about it. It's not a picnic. Getting up at 3 A.M. to move is scary, and deep down you know you have to go on and get it over with. I feel truly thankful to have made it through this war safely.

Carla Yvette Henry

Statements	Carla	Jenna	Both
She is strong as a soldier.			✓
1. She saw a lot of destruction.			
2. She mentions Iraqi soldiers.			
3. She relies on camaraderie for support.			
4. She is grateful for her survival.			
5. She thinks the Army is tough.			

PART 2: VOCABULARY

2.1 Use the words from the box to fill in the blanks. Not all of the words will be used.

ammunition	casualties	display	sparse
camaraderie	convoys	front line	survive

- Sadly, in a war, there are usually numerous _____.
- Medical units in the military _____ a white flag that signals their peaceful intentions.
- Even those who _____ battle often take home mental and emotional scars.
- Military units often travel in _____ for safety.
- Through their hardship and losses, the soldiers develop a strong feeling of _____.

2.2 Complete the sentences using the adjective form of the word in parentheses.

- In the United States, it has not been _____ (tradition) for women to serve in the military.
- The military had been a _____ (patriarchy) organization until modern times.
- _____ (technology) warfare has been instrumental in decreasing the number of casualties.
- Jennifer flies _____ (air) intelligence missions.
- The military needs _____ (medic) doctors as well as soldiers.

PART 3: SKILLS FOR WRITING**3.1** Rewrite the direct quotes from Jenna's letter in indirect speech.

1. "The real challenge is the war."

2. "I have learned that you need to be prepared at all times for action."

3. "The suffering was dreadful, but I stayed strong and didn't let myself cry about it."

4. "I can't believe my son is already walking and saying a few words."

5. "Seeing war really makes me appreciate the freedom I have at home."

6. "One day I will probably return to being a civilian and full-time mother, but I really feel that for now the greatest achievement is to serve my country."

3.2 Reread two paragraphs from Jenna's letter. Underline the two embedded quotes in the paragraph.

(1) Seeing war really makes me appreciate the freedom I have at home. (2) I love being with my son and husband, and the life we have here. (3) My son is growing up so fast! (4) When I left he was just two months old. (5) I can't believe my son is already walking and saying a few words. (6) Just yesterday he said, "Momma, play toy."

(7) As you know, I won't be in the States for long. (8) I just got a letter from my battalion, and we are scheduled to return to Iraq "within six months." (9) That will be hard. (10) Still, at least I know now that my family can survive without me. (11) One day I will probably return to being a civilian and full-time mother, but I really feel that for now the greatest achievement is to serve my country. (12) I know that may be hard for some people to understand.

3.3 Read two quotes that would fit nicely into Jenna’s letter in Part 3.2. Write the sentence numbers in the blanks where the quotes belong.

1. As my husband always says, “If anything ever happens to you, I’ll manage somehow.”

This quote can be embedded between sentences ____ and ____.

2. I really believe in the Army slogan, “Be all that you can be.”

This quote can be embedded between sentences ____ and ____.

PART 4: WRITING

An Opinion Essay (20 minutes)

Write an essay of four to five paragraphs answering this question about women’s service in the military: *Does military service make women more or less competent as mothers?*

- Include your opinion in the first paragraph.
- Make sure each body paragraph supports your opinion.
- Give details and examples.
- Use the vocabulary and grammar from Unit 8.

Unit 8 Vocabulary Words			
camaraderie	display	get me down	mission
casualty	dreadful	get to you	resist
civilian	front line	maintain	survivor
Unit 8 Grammar: Direct and Indirect Speech			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “I am a sergeant in the Army.” (Lisa Richards) • Lisa Richards said she was a sergeant in the Army. 			