

# Night of a Thousand Dinners



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An Elementary Instant Lesson™

## Pre-Reading Activities

### A: Read And Think

Today you are reading and talking about a problem. Read the questions below and talk about them in pairs. Can you answer any of them?

Who are Paul McCartney, Heather Mills McCartney, Lucy Liu, Susan Sarandon, Robert Redford, Leonardo DiCaprio and Harrison Ford?

What are these people doing on November 6? Why?

What are thousands of students like you around the world doing today?

How do landmines destroy or damage the lives of so many people?



By the end of this lesson, you will know the answers to all of these questions.

## Reading Activities

### A: Reading For Information

**Part One:** Read the text below. Fill the gap in each sentence with the correct information.

- Thousands of people around the world will be having a special meal on .
- Adopt-A-Minefield is an organization which helps people learn about landmines, and raises money for .
- is organizing the dinners to raise money for landmine clearance and survivor assistance programs.
- Stars like Sir Paul McCartney, Heather Mills McCartney, Harrison Ford, Lucy Liu and Robert Redford are  in the dinner.
- The money will be used in Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, .

## A Special Dinner

November 6 is the Night of a Thousand Dinners when tens of thousands of people around the world will join with their friends, family and neighbors to share a meal and think about the landmine problem.

The dinners are organized by Adopt-A-Minefield, an organization that teaches people about landmines and **raises** money for landmine clearance.

The money raised from the meals will be used to help with landmine **clearance** and survivor assistance projects in Afghanistan, Angola,

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, Iraq, Laos, Mozambique, and Vietnam.

Stars like Heather Mills McCartney, Sir Paul McCartney, Harrison Ford, Lucy Liu and Robert Redford are taking part.

"All of the money raised will go to clear minefields and to help survivors," says Heather Mills McCartney. "Just 1 euro clears a square meter of land, 50 euros helps a child walk again."

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**Words:** *raises* - gets **landmine clearance** - when landmines are taken out of the ground



**Part Two:** Read the text below as quickly as you can. Choose the best answer for each statement.

1. Students in many different countries today are...
  - a. doing their homework.
  - b. learning about landmines.
  - c. learning about English-To-Go.com.
2. The students are taking part in...
  - a. a lesson about the dangers of study.
  - b. a lesson about students.
  - c. the World's Largest Lesson.

Today around the world, thousands of students are doing the same lesson. They are reading these words and they are learning about the dangers of landmines.

This is English-To-Go.com's third annual World's Largest Lesson.  
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*"As Patrons and Goodwill ambassadors of Adopt-A-Minefield we are delighted to support the World's Largest Lesson 2003. Through the World's Largest Lesson thousands of students around the world will become aware of this most important issue and help raise funds to solve the problem."*

**Paul McCartney and Heather Mills McCartney**



## B: Comprehension

You are going to read an article about Afghanistan, looking at three people who know something about landmines. Your teacher will divide the class into three groups. You will get part of the article and some questions. **Group A** reads **Part One** of the article, **Group B** reads **Part Two**, and **Group C** reads **Part Three**. Answer the questions for your part of the article.

## C: Reading And Thinking

Imagine that you are the person you read about. What would your life be like? Read your part of the article again and complete these sentences with information from the article and your own ideas.

1. I am... (*Who are you? What are you doing in Afghanistan?*)
2. My everyday life is difficult because...
3. Landmines are a serious problem in Afghanistan because...

Now compare your answers with other students who read the same part of the article.

## D: Sharing Information

Now work in groups of three (one student from **Group A**, one from **Group B** and one from **Group C**). Take turns to tell the other students about the person you read about. Tell the other students:

- who this person is.
- how landmines have changed his or her life.
- what you have learned about landmines from your part of this article.

## E: Check Your Understanding

Now look at the questions in **Pre-Reading Activity A** again. Answer them in pairs.

*Help us to break the World's Largest Lesson record! Remind your teacher to tell English-To-Go.com how many students took part in your class.*

*You can help with landmine clearance and survivor assistance projects by donating some money to Adopt-A-Minefield. Ask your teacher how.*

*"You don't have to wait until the same date in 2004 to get involved and help solve the landmine crisis. Any event, anytime is great!!!!"*

Keith Kelly  
Director  
Adopt-A-Minefield (UK)

# TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

## Pre-Reading Activities

### A: Read And Think - Notes

Students can work in pairs to discuss the answers. They may know the answers to all or some (or perhaps none) of the questions. At this stage you do not need to have a class feedback session, but go straight on to the next activity. Spend only a short amount of time on this activity.

If your students don't know what a landmine is, you can give them this definition: 'A landmine is a container filled with explosive material that is placed in the ground. When a person or a vehicle goes over it, the mine explodes.'

## Reading Activities

### A: Reading For Information - Answers

#### Part One

- Thousands of people around the world will be having a special meal on **November 6**.
- Adopt-A-Minefield is an organization which helps people learn about landmines and raises money for **landmine clearance**.
- Adopt-A-Minefield** is organizing the dinners to raise money for landmine clearance and survivor assistance programs.
- Stars like Sir Paul McCartney, Heather Mills McCartney, Harrison Ford, Lucy Liu and Robert Redford are **taking part** in the dinner.
- The money will be used in Afghanistan, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Croatia, **Iraq, Laos, Mozambique, and Vietnam**.

**Part Two:** 1. b, 2. c.

### B: Comprehension - Notes

Divide the class into three groups, 'A, B and C' and assign each group to their part of the article. Students can work individually to complete the questions, but it would be more effective to have pairs of students working together (i.e. two students in Group A work together.)

*(Note For Homeschoolers: If you are teaching or homeschooling one learner, you may like to just do Part One of the article with the learner. If the learner is keen, you could then look at Parts Two and Three with them. However, they will be able to get an understanding of some of the problems survivors of landmine attacks face, by just doing Part One of the article. The learner does the comprehension and reading and thinking activities, but doesn't do the sharing information activity.)*

### B: Comprehension - Texts To Be Copied And Given To Students

These are on the next page.

### B: Comprehension - Answers

#### Group A - Part One

- A ten-year-old girl from Afghanistan.
- She stepped on a landmine that blew off her right leg.
- Yes.
- More than 100 people every month.

#### Group B - Part Two

- She's a physiotherapist working in Afghanistan.
- She lost a leg when she was injured by a landmine.
- They may find it difficult to find husbands and make friends. People think they can't work at home or look after a house, and no one accepts them.

#### Group C - Part Three

- An Afghani who is clearing landmines on part of the Shomali Plain north of Kabul.
- 5.
- 8 farm animals.
- A small boy lost his leg (blown off by a mine) and four animals were killed by a mine.

### C: Reading And Thinking - Notes

Students answer the questions using their part of the article and their own ideas too. It would be good to get them to compare answers with other students who have done the same part (i.e. students in Group A work together etc) so that they check their answers and see if they have missed any information. It will also allow them to become more fluent with the material which they will reuse in Reading Activity D. Circulate to make sure their answers are appropriate.

### C: Reading And Thinking - Sample Answers

#### Group A - Part One

- I am **Shakila, a ten-year-old girl living in Afghanistan**.
- My everyday life is difficult because **three years ago I stepped on a landmine and lost my right leg**.
- Landmines are a serious problem in Afghanistan because **they have killed or hurt thousands of Afghans. Some people say it may be difficult for me to get married because I have lost my leg**.

*continued in next column*

#### Group B - Part Two

- I am **Rohafza Naudri, a physiotherapist**.
- My everyday life is difficult because **I lost a leg in a landmine accident when I was 11. I also help other landmine victims**.
- Landmines are a serious problem in Afghanistan because **they have killed or hurt thousands of Afghans. It may be difficult for women who have been hurt to find husbands as people think they can't work at home**.

#### Group C - Part Three

- I am **Abdul Razaq, one of the people clearing landmines in Afghanistan**.
- My everyday life is difficult because **my work is dangerous and stressful. Five people and eight farm animals have been killed by mines where I'm working**.
- Landmines are a serious problem in Afghanistan because **until the ground is cleared of mines, people here can't do anything. Farmers can't work their fields and there are no jobs for people**.

### D: Sharing Information - Notes

Students are now in groups of three with each one sharing information from their part of the article.

### D: Sharing Information - Answers

Answers will vary.

### E: Check Your Understanding - Notes

You can now check students' comprehension of the main parts of the lesson by asking them to answer again the four questions from **Pre-Reading Activity A**. You may like to list their answers on the board, or ask them to work in groups and write them on a poster for question 4.

### E: Check Your Understanding - Answers

- They're stars.
- They're taking part in the **Night of a Thousand Dinners**. To raise money for landmine clearance and survivor assistance projects and think about the landmine problem.
- A lesson on the dangers of landmines organized by English-To-Go.com as part of the third annual World's Largest Lesson.
- By killing and injuring people. Killing and maiming lots of children. Landmine survivors are left with injuries which mean they will need help from others for the rest of their lives. People are unable to use land - they can't farm it or build houses.

### Note One: Useful Websites

Your students may be interested in the following websites:

- <http://www.landmines.org.uk/>
- <http://www.1000dinners.com>
- <http://www.landminesurvivors.org/>
- <http://www.icbl.org/>

You may like to use material from <http://www.landmines.org.uk/187>. This contains an excellent set of stories, 'Living With Landmines' which are about the life of children in mine-affected countries - from the child's point of view. The following webpage has photos: [http://www.landmines.org.uk/Photo\\_Gallery.asp](http://www.landmines.org.uk/Photo_Gallery.asp)

**Note Two:** Other related lessons that your students may find interesting are found in the English-to-go.com Instant Lesson library: '**How Good Is Your Nose?**' is an **Intermediate - Upper Intermediate** lesson that looks at the use of mechanical dogs that can smell landmines. '**Demining Dogs**' is an **Elementary lesson** about dogs that are used to clear landmines in Thailand. The 2001 World's Largest Lesson is '**A Global Issue**', an **Intermediate lesson** that looks at a charity that was launched to raise funds for mine clearance. The 2002 World's Largest Lesson is '**Landmine Danger**'. Another **Intermediate lesson**, '**Loans For Hope**', looks at postwar Afghanistan and fits well with this lesson.

### Note Three: Some Landmine Facts

- There are between 45 and 70 million landmines in 90 countries.
  - Landmines kill or injure 10,000 to 19,000 civilians every year.
  - Landmines can explode for 75 or more years after they are planted.
  - Removing landmines from the ground is very dangerous work.
  - About one third of all the people killed by landmines are children.
- (Adapted from <http://www.landmines.org.uk/>)

## Questions For Group A:

1. Who is Shakila? (Find out her age and where she comes from.)
2. What happened to her three years ago?
3. Is this a common problem in Afghanistan?
4. How many people are still killed or injured by landmines each month in Afghanistan?

### Part One

## Landmines Make Spinsters of Young Afghan Girls

BY DAVID BRUNNSTROM

SHOMALI PLAIN, Afghanistan Sat May 3 (Reuters) - Ten-year-old Shakila may never marry.

Three years ago she walked out of her house on Afghanistan's Shomali Plain and stepped on a landmine that blew off her right leg.

Shakila is one of the tens of thousands of Afghans who have been hurt by landmines.

After 23 years of war, the **countless** numbers of mines that remain buried in Afghanistan still kill or maim more than 100 people every month.

Physiotherapist Rohafza Naudri, who is helping Shakila, says it will be very difficult for the young girl to find a husband.

(Continued...)

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**Words: countless** - too many to be counted **maim** - hurt someone very badly so that part of the body is lost

## Questions for Group B:

1. Who is Rohafza Naudri? (What does she do?)
2. What happened to her when she was 11?
3. What may happen to women who are injured by landmines? Why?

### Part Two

## Landmines Make Spinsters of Young Afghan Girls

(.../Continued) Physiotherapist Rohafza Naudri lost a leg to a mine when she was 11. She said it is difficult in Afghanistan for women who have been hurt by landmines to find a husband.

"Nobody wants to marry them; they don't have much of a chance," she said.

"People think they can't work at home and they can't look after the house. It's also difficult for them to make friends; nobody really accepts them." (Continued...)

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**Words: spinster** - a woman who has never married

## Questions For Group C:

1. Who is Abdul Razaq?
2. How many people have been killed where he is working?
3. What else has been killed by mines?
4. What happened in the garden opposite him?

### Part Three

## LANDMINE CLEARANCE VITAL

(.../Continued) Abdul Razaq, one of the men clearing landmines on part of the Shomali Plain north of Kabul, said five people and eight farm animals had been killed by mines where he was working.

"Recently, in this garden opposite me, a small boy lost his leg and four animals were killed by a mine," he said.

"Every day we have one or two **incidents** here. As long as mines exist, nobody is able to do anything. Farmers cannot work their fields and there won't be jobs for the people."

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**Word: incidents** - events or happenings

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