
In the Trenches Teacher's Notes **B1**

This B1-level article will enable your pupils to get a better picture of a specific and horrific aspect of World War I: the trenches. It puts particular emphasis on the Battle of the Somme, June-November 1916.

Vocabulary and structures

- war, weapons
- past tenses: simple past (with irregular verbs), past perfect, past continuous
- the passive
- *If* clause
- numbers (simple and complex)
- locating prepositions

Interaction

- We suggest video projecting the photograph without the title or caption and start by asking pupils to comment on it making hypotheses (when, where, possibly who). They can then discover the title and the caption to situate the photo.

Reading + Writing

- The diagram of a trench will help clarify the vocabulary that will come up in the article.
- You can then have pupils discover the rest of the article in videoprojection, on tablets, or on printouts, or a combination. The first activity helps the pupils check they have correctly understood by linking important words from the article to a definition.
- The second activity ties the comprehension of the document with a linguistic structure, the “if” clause.
- The third activity reviews spelling complex numbers.
- The fourth activity can be simply grammatical – pupils can recognise the

different past tenses. At this point, it can be interesting to discuss with them the various actions in the article and identify the emphasis used for narration by simply looking at verb tenses.

Solutions

Definitions

1. d 2. g 3. k 4. a 5. h 6. f 7. i 8. e 9. b 10. j

IF....

1. millions of men would have survived.
2. you would go to/sleep in a dugout.
3. you would be evacuated to the trenches behind.
4. they would be killed / they would have a great chance of being killed.
5. you would/could go home.

Numbers

- A. 1.c.D. 2.d.A. 3.a.C. 4.b.B
B. nineteen fourteen, one million, thirty eight thousand two hundred and thirty, one point five kilometres

Past Tenses

- A. 1.b. 2.a. 3.c
B. **past continuous:** was climbing / (was) crossing, were fighting
past perfect: had won / had believed
C. mean, fight, tell, can, lose, make, win, begin