CLASSROOM WORKSHEET

750 Evacuated from Oleshky in Rare Joint Operation

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NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____ SCORE _____ / 12



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1 Read

The number beside each paragraph helps you talk about it.

1 More than 750 residents fled the Russian-occupied city of Oleshky in southern Kherson region. They reached Ukrainian-held territory via a bus convoy and a flight route through Russia and Belarus.

2 An aid convoy of 25 buses, ambulances and trucks arrived in the city on Friday. It carried food and medicine, preceded by demining operations during which a Russian sapper and one other person were killed.

3 The route required traveling 450 kilometers through Crimea into Anapa, southern Russia, then flying to Belarus before crossing into northern Ukraine.

4 Melania Trump stated on social media that the humanitarian convoy safely evacuated the civilians. People still in Oleshky could choose to go to territory controlled by Ukraine, territory controlled by Russia, or stay and receive refilled supplies.

5 Yana Lantratova, who served as Russia's lead representative, and Dmytro Lubinets, Ukraine's commissioner for human rights, stood side by side addressing reporters. The cordiality between officials of the two countries reportedly had not occurred since the conflict began.

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2 Key words

evacuated /ɪ'vækjueɪtɪd/ *verb*

to remove people from a dangerous place to a safer one, usually in an organized way

Authorities evacuated thousands of coastal residents before the hurricane made landfall.

demining /diː'maɪnɪŋ/ *noun*

the process of detecting and removing land mines or explosive devices from an area to make it safe

Demining in the former conflict zone is expected to take several years before the land can be cultivated again.

convoy /'kɒnvɔɪ/ *noun*

a group of vehicles traveling together, often for safety or a common purpose

The aid convoy waited at the border checkpoint for inspection before entering the crisis region.

cordiality /ˌkɔːdi'ælɪti/ *noun*

the quality of being warm, friendly, and polite in behavior toward others

The cordiality between the two delegations surprised many observers who expected a tense negotiation.

sapper /'sæpə/ *noun*

a soldier trained to handle explosives, especially to find and destroy mines and other dangerous devices

The sapper carefully identified and neutralized the improvised device buried near the road.

humanitarian /hjuːˌmænɪ'teərɪən/ *adjective*

relating to the protection of people's basic rights and needs, especially in times of crisis or conflict

International organizations coordinated a humanitarian response to assist refugees displaced by the flooding.

3 Grammar focus

Hedging and distancing

reportedly / is thought to / appears to / is expected to + verb

Hedging language (reportedly, is thought to, appears to) lets a writer report information without vouching for it. It marks the difference between established fact and claim or expectation.

1. The cordiality between officials of the two countries reportedly had not occurred since the conflict began.

What does the writer avoid stating as a certain fact?

4 Reading comprehension

EXERCISE 1 Comprehension Check

3 points

Read the questions below and choose the correct answer based ONLY on the lesson text.

1 What was the consequence of the demining operations mentioned in the text?

(a) The convoy was delayed by several hours.
(b) A Russian sapper and one other person were killed.
(c) The route through Crimea had to be abandoned.
(d) Food and medicine had to be loaded onto ambulances instead of trucks.

2 What does the text suggest about the cordiality between the two officials?

(a) It was the first joint operation they had ever conducted.
(b) It had been a regular feature of their communications.
(c) It was reportedly something that had not been seen since the conflict began.
(d) It was staged for the benefit of Melania Trump's social media post.

3 Which of the following was NOT an option given to people still in Oleshky?

(a) Go to territory controlled by Ukraine.
(b) Go to territory controlled by Russia.
(c) Stay and receive refilled supplies.
(d) Join the convoy on the 450-kilometer route through Crimea.

EXERCISE 2 Short Answer Questions

Answer each question in a short phrase or sentence using information from the lesson text.

1 What did the aid convoy of 25 vehicles carry to Oleshky?

2 How did Melania Trump communicate her statement about the evacuation?

3 What role did Dmytro Lubinets hold?

5 Vocabulary and grammar practice

EXERCISE 3 Participles and Hedging in News English

4 points

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the word in brackets. Pay attention to participles and hedging language typical of C1 news reports.

1. The aid convoy of 25 vehicles, _____ (precede) in the city on Friday.
2. The cordiality between officials of the two countries _____ (report) had not occurred since the conflict began.
3. Melania Trump stated on social media that the humanitarian convoy _____ (evacuate) the civilians.
4. People still in Oleshky could choose _____ (go) to territory controlled by Ukraine, territory controlled by Russia, or stay and receive refilled supplies.

EXERCISE 4 Vocabulary Matching

5 points

Match each term (1–5) with its correct definition (a–e).

1. evacuated _____
2. demining _____
3. convoy _____
4. cordiality _____
5. sapper _____

A Warm, friendly, and polite behavior between people

B A group of vehicles traveling together for a shared purpose or protection

C The process of detecting and clearing explosive mines from land or routes

D Removed from a dangerous area to a safer location in an organized operation

E A military engineer trained to find and neutralize explosives and mines

6 Guided writing

EXERCISE 5 Writing a News Summary

Write a balanced summary of the joint evacuation operation in Oleshky in 120–180 words. Your summary should cover: the scale of the evacuation, the route and its dangers, the options given to remaining residents, and the unusual cooperation between the two sides. Use the required keywords naturally. Write 120 to 180 words. Use these words: evacuated, convoy, cordiality, demining.

7 Discussion

Talk with a partner, then share one idea.

EXERCISE 6 Speaking

1. The text notes that the cordiality between officials of the two countries 'reportedly had not occurred since the conflict began.' What significance might this single moment of cooperation carry for the broader conflict, if any?
2. The route required traveling through both Russia and Belarus. In what ways might such a long and complex route affect the civilians choosing to evacuate, compared to a shorter but perhaps less safe path?
3. Melania Trump communicated about the evacuation on social media rather than through a diplomatic channel. What are the advantages and disadvantages of high-profile figures commenting on humanitarian operations via social media?

Answer key

For the teacher

Keep this page for yourself and copy only the pages before it. Short-answer and writing tasks list one possible answer.

Exercise 1 Comprehension Check

1. B. A Russian sapper and one other person were killed. The text explicitly states that during the demining operations, a Russian sapper and one other person were killed.
2. C. It was reportedly something that had not been seen since the conflict began. The text says 'The cordiality between officials of the two countries reportedly had not occurred since the conflict began,' indicating this was unprecedented.
3. D. Join the convoy on the 450-kilometer route through Crimea. The text lists three choices: go to Ukrainian-controlled territory, go to Russian-controlled territory, or stay and receive refilled supplies. Joining the convoy through Crimea is not mentioned as an option for those remaining.

Exercise 2 Short Answer Questions

1. The aid convoy carried food and medicine. The text states: 'It carried food and medicine, preceded by demining operations.'
2. Melania Trump stated on social media that the humanitarian convoy safely evacuated the civilians. The text specifies that she 'stated on social media' rather than, for example, giving a press conference.
3. Dmytro Lubinets served as Ukraine's commissioner for human rights. The text identifies him as 'Ukraine's commissioner for human rights.'

Exercise 3 Participles and Hedging in News English

1. preceded by demining operations, arrived The past participle 'preceded' introduces a reduced passive relative clause describing what happened before the convoy arrived.
2. reportedly had not occurred 'Reportedly' is a C1-level hedging adverb used to distance the writer from the claim; it derives from the past participle form.
3. safely evacuated In reported speech after 'stated that,' the verb shifts to past simple 'evacuated' to match the past reporting verb.
4. to go to territory controlled by Ukraine After 'choose,' the to-infinitive 'to go' is required. The parallel structure also includes the bare infinitive 'stay' after 'or.'

Exercise 4 Vocabulary Matching

1. D. Removed from a dangerous area to a safer location in an organized operation
2. C. The process of detecting and clearing explosive mines from land or routes
3. B. A group of vehicles traveling together for a shared purpose or protection
4. A. Warm, friendly, and polite behavior between people
5. E. A military engineer trained to find and neutralize explosives and mines

Exercise 5 Writing a News Summary

In a rare joint operation, more than 750 residents of the Russian-occupied city of Oleshky in southern Kherson region were evacuated to Ukrainian-held territory. A humanitarian convoy of 25 buses, ambulances and trucks carried food and medicine into the city, preceded by demining operations during which a Russian sapper and one other person were killed. The escape route spanned 450 kilometers through Crimea and Anapa in southern Russia, then continued by flight to Belarus before crossing into northern Ukraine. Remaining residents could choose to go to either Ukrainian- or Russian-controlled territory, or stay and receive refilled supplies. Perhaps most remarkable was the cordiality between Yana Lantratova, Russia's lead representative, and Dmytro Lubinets, Ukraine's commissioner for human rights, who stood side by side addressing reporters. This display of cooperation reportedly had not occurred between officials of the two countries since the conflict began. One possible answer. Yours will be different and can still be good: check it against the list.