CLASSROOM WORKSHEET

Starlink Speeds Return as Ukraine Disputes Responsibility

Technology · Oct 25, 2026 · 2 min read

NAME _____ CLASS _____ DATE _____ SCORE _____ / 12



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1 Read

The number beside each paragraph helps you talk about it.

1 Ukraine's government announced on Saturday that Starlink and its military variant Starshield were fully operational again after speeds were restricted for over a week. President Zelenskyy confirmed via Telegram that connection speeds returned to their pre-restriction levels overnight. The defense ministry stated that connections remained stable above 400 kph. The restrictions had capped terminal speeds at 160 kph, which hampered Ukraine's ability to intercept Russian attack drones and forced cancellation of some military operations. Space X CEO Elon Musk accused the Ukrainian military of violating terms of service by using the system for offensive drone strikes. Zelenskyy blamed both parties, stating that the American government signaled the speed limitation and Space X technically carried it out. The restrictions applied only to Ukraine and not to terminals in EU countries, according to Zelenskyy.

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2 Key words

restrict /rɪˈstrɪkt/ *verb*

To limit something or prevent it from being done freely, often by official decision.

The new regulations restrict the use of single-use plastics in the city.

hamper /ˈhæmpər/ *verb*

To make it difficult for someone or something to proceed or function effectively.

Heavy fog severely hampered the rescue efforts in the mountain region.

violate /ˈvaɪəleɪt/ *verb*

To break a rule, agreement, or law, often in a serious way.

The company was fined after it violated several environmental protection laws.

intercept /ˌɪntəˈsept/ *verb*

To stop or catch something that is moving from one place to another before it reaches its target.

The security team managed to intercept the illegal shipment before it crossed the border.

cancellation /ˌkænsəˈleɪʃn/ *noun*

The act of deciding that a planned event or activity will no longer happen.

The sudden cancellation of the conference left hundreds of delegates stranded.

3 Reading comprehension

EXERCISE 1 Reading for Detail and Implication

3 points

Read the passage and answer the questions below. Each question has one correct answer based ONLY on the text.

1 What effect did the speed restrictions have on Ukraine's military operations?

(a) They caused a complete shutdown of all military communications.
(b) They had no measurable impact because other systems took over.
(c) They hampered drone interception and forced cancellation of some operations.
(d) They only affected civilian users and left military terminals untouched.

2 According to the text, how does Zelenskyy distribute responsibility for the restrictions?

(a) He blames only SpaceX for the technical implementation.
(b) He blames only the American government for the political decision.
(c) He assigns responsibility exclusively to the Ukrainian military for misuse.
(d) He blames both parties: the American government signaled it and SpaceX carried it out.

3 What does the final sentence imply about the geographic scope of the restrictions?

(a) The restrictions were lifted worldwide at the same time.
(b) The restrictions were selectively applied, affecting only Ukraine and not EU terminals.
(c) The restrictions applied equally to all terminals including those in EU countries.
(d) The EU requested the restrictions as a joint measure with Ukraine.

EXERCISE 2 Short-Answer Comprehension

Answer each question with a brief factual response drawn directly from the passage.

1 How long were the connection speeds restricted before they were restored?

2 What speed cap was imposed on terminals during the restriction period?

3 On which platform did President Zelenskyy confirm the restoration of speeds?

4 Vocabulary and grammar practice

EXERCISE 3 Participles and Passive Voice in Context

4 points

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb in parentheses. Pay attention to the hint about tense or voice.

1 The restrictions _____ (apply) only to Ukraine and not to terminals in EU countries.

2 President Zelenskyy, _____ (blame) both parties, stated that the American government signaled the speed limitation.

3 Some military operations were _____ (cancel) as a direct result of the speed restrictions.

4 SpaceX CEO Elon Musk _____ (accuse) the Ukrainian military of violating terms of service.

EXERCISE 4 Vocabulary Matching

5 points

Match each term with its correct definition.

1 hamper _____

2 violate _____

3 intercept _____

4 cancellation _____

5 restrict _____

A The act of deciding that a planned event or activity will no longer happen.

B To make it difficult for something to proceed or function effectively.

C To stop or catch something moving from one place to another before it reaches its target.

D To limit something or prevent it from being done freely, often by official decision.

E To break a rule, agreement, or law, often in a serious way.

5 Guided writing

EXERCISE 5 **Balanced News Summary**

Write a balanced summary of the story in 120–180 words. You must include the required keywords. Present both sides of the dispute without adding any information not found in the text. Write 120 to 180 words. Use these words: hampered, violate, restrict, cancellation.

6 Discussion

Talk with a partner, then share one idea.

EXERCISE 6 **Speaking**

1. Zelenskyy blamed both parties rather than placing responsibility on only one. What does this reveal about his diplomatic strategy, and how might it affect future negotiations with SpaceX?
2. The text notes that restrictions applied only to Ukraine and not to EU terminals. What significance might this selective application have for trust in private providers operating in conflict zones?
3. Musk accused Ukraine of violating terms of service, while Ukraine framed the issue as government-directed. In your view, who bears the primary responsibility in such disputes, and why?

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 Reading for Detail and Implication

1. C. They hampered drone interception and forced cancellation of some operations. The text explicitly states that the restrictions 'hampered Ukraine's ability to intercept Russian attack drones and forced cancellation of some military operations.'
2. D. He blames both parties: the American government signaled it and SpaceX carried it out. The text says Zelenskyy 'blamed both parties, stating that the American government signaled the speed limitation and Space X technically carried it out.'
3. B. The restrictions were selectively applied, affecting only Ukraine and not EU terminals. The text states 'The restrictions applied only to Ukraine and not to terminals in EU countries,' implying selective geographic application.

Exercise 2 Short-Answer Comprehension

1. The speeds were restricted for over a week before being restored. The text states 'after speeds were restricted for over a week.'
2. The restrictions capped terminal speeds at 160 kph. The text explicitly mentions 'The restrictions had capped terminal speeds at 160 kph.'
3. Zelenskyy confirmed the restoration via Telegram. The text says 'President Zelenskyy confirmed via Telegram that connection speeds returned to their pre-restriction levels.'

Exercise 3 Participles and Passive Voice in Context

1. were applied The passive past simple is needed because the restrictions received the action of being applied by an unnamed agent (the government/SpaceX).
2. blaming A present participle clause ('blaming both parties') functions as an adverbial participle phrase providing accompanying information to the main clause.
3. cancelled The passive voice with a past participle is required because the operations received the action; the agent (the restrictions) is expressed in a prepositional phrase.
4. accused The past simple active is used because Musk is the known agent performing a specific completed action at a definite time in the past.

Exercise 4 Vocabulary Matching

1. B. To make it difficult for something to proceed or function effectively.
2. E. To break a rule, agreement, or law, often in a serious way.
3. C. To stop or catch something moving from one place to another before it reaches its target.
4. A. The act of deciding that a planned event or activity will no longer happen.
5. D. To limit something or prevent it from being done freely, often by official decision.

Exercise 5 Balanced News Summary

Ukraine's government announced on Saturday that Starlink and its military variant Starshield were fully operational again after connection speeds had been restricted for over a week. President Zelenskyy confirmed via Telegram that speeds returned to pre-restriction levels overnight, with the defense ministry reporting stable connections above 400 kph. The restrictions had capped terminal speeds at 160 kph, which hampered Ukraine's ability to intercept Russian attack drones and forced the cancellation of some military operations. SpaceX CEO Elon Musk accused the Ukrainian military of violating terms of service by using the system for offensive drone strikes. Zelenskyy blamed both parties, stating that the American government signaled the speed limitation and SpaceX technically carried it out. According to Zelenskyy, the restrictions applied only to Ukraine and not to terminals in EU countries. The episode highlights how private technology infrastructure can become entangled in geopolitical disputes. One possible answer. Yours will be different and can still be good: check it against the list.