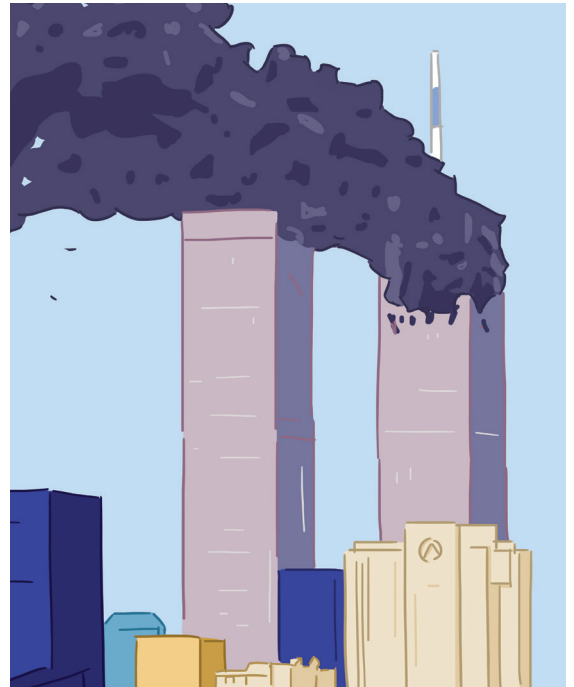


September 11th

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Where were you on September 11th, 2001?
2. What word best describes 9/11?
3. Which locations did the 9/11 hijackers target?
4. What happened to the US airspace on September 11th?
5. What is the Pentagon?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| _____ 1. commercial jet | a) at the site where an event took place |
| _____ 2. on the scene | b) a safe place underground |
| _____ 3. collapse | c) to withstand |
| _____ 4. evacuate | d) people who lost their lives |
| _____ 5. a last resort | e) a heightened state of caution |
| _____ 6. headquarters | f) extreme fear |
| _____ 7. terror | g) the location in a plane where the pilot operates from |
| _____ 8. cockpit | h) to leave a dangerous area |
| _____ 9. bunker | i) a large plane that transports paying civilians |
| _____ 10. casualties | j) the central location for an organization or group |
| _____ 11. bear | k) a final option to try when everything else has failed |
| _____ 12. high alert | l) to fall down completely in a sudden manner |

Reading

1. On September 11th, 2001, at 8:46 am, a **commercial jet** crashed into the North Tower of the World Trade Center in New York City. It was the start of a business day at the Twin Towers. A second jet flew into the South Tower at 9:02 am. The US was under attack.
2. Emergency workers were **on the scene** very quickly. They did not expect the Twin Towers to **collapse**. People in the towers tried to **evacuate** from the burning buildings. Some fled to the rooftops, but there were no rescue helicopters waiting. Others tried to take the stairs down but got trapped in the smoke. Some jumped out windows as **a last resort**.
3. A third hijacked plane struck the Pentagon at 9:37 am. The Pentagon is the **headquarters** for the US Department of Defense. All of the 59 passengers on board the plane died, as well as 125 people at the Pentagon and five hijackers. Fortunately, the plane hit the west side, which was full of new, unused offices.
4. This was not the end of the **terror** on September 11th. There was a fourth hijacked plane. When the passengers on board Flight 93 realized their country was under attack, they tried to take control of their plane. They made phone calls and planned to rush the **cockpit**. The fourth hijacked plane did not complete its mission. Instead of hitting the White House or the Capitol, it crashed in a field in Pennsylvania.
5. George Bush, the president of the US at the time, was at an elementary school in Florida on the morning of September 11th. The vice president evacuated the White House and moved to a secure **bunker**. Nobody knew how long the terror would continue.
6. At 9:45 am, the US government shut the US airspace down. Many planes landed at Canadian airports. Lower Manhattan and Washington, DC, were evacuated. At midday, New York City's mayor, Rudy Giuliani, spoke to the people of New York. He said the **casualties** were "more than any of us can **bear**." Much of the world remained on **high alert** for the next few weeks. Air travel would never be the same.

Comprehension

A. True or False

Read the statements below. If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence. If it is false, write F and correct the information. If it is not mentioned, write N.

- 1. _____ The two planes crashed into the South Tower of the World Trade Center.
- 2. _____ One of the hijacked planes struck the US Department of Defense.
- 3. _____ President George Bush was evacuated from the White House on September 11th.
- 4. _____ One of the hijackers didn't board the fourth flight, so there were only four hijackers on board.
- 5. _____ Some people hoped to be rescued from the roof of the World Trade Center.

B. Complete the Chart

Complete the chart below with point form notes about the September 11th terrorist attacks. Compare your chart with a partner. Choose at least one item from your second column and search for information online.

THINGS I KNOW	THINGS I WANT TO KNOW
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Role-Play

What questions would you have for President George W. Bush about September 11th? Write at least five questions on the back of your paper. Then get a partner. Take turns being the reporter and the president. Ask President Bush your questions about September 11th.

Memories

Many people worldwide have vivid memories from September 11th. What do you remember about that day? If you don't remember anything, ask a relative or neighbor what he or she remembers. Make a class memory page. Share it with ESL Library by emailing info@esl-library.com.

Vocabulary Review

Choose the answer closest in meaning to the underlined word(s) in the following sentences.

- The South Tower collapsed before the North Tower.
 - was built*
 - got hit*
 - fell to the ground*
- The headquarters of the Defense Ministry was the target.
 - central office*
 - president's office*
 - military sector*
- The passengers rushed the cockpit as a last resort.
 - final countdown*
 - desperate decision*
 - new place to see*
- When fire trucks arrived at the scene, the tower fell.
 - the driveway*
 - the fire*
 - the site of the disaster*
- The government leaders were moved to a secure bunker.
 - safe country*
 - vehicle in the air*
 - underground hiding place*
- The War on Terror began on September 11th.
 - the fear of danger*
 - hijackers*
 - use of weapons*
- The pictures from the attack are more than we can bear.
 - grieve*
 - handle emotionally*
 - wear*
- The number of casualties was estimated at 3,000.
 - causes*
 - workers*
 - lives lost*
- Some thought it was a military plane, but it was actually a commercial airliner.
 - jet*
 - television*
 - for profit*
- The office workers tried to evacuate the building.
 - exit quickly*
 - secure*
 - clean up*

Discuss

- Were you surprised the towers collapsed? Why or why not?
- What was different about this terrorist attack compared to others that have occurred around the world?
- What do you think the fourth plane's target was? Why do you think that?
- Did anything good come out of September 11th?

Summarize

VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

Work as a class (or in small groups). Take turns saying one sentence about September 11th. Don't look at the reading passage as you summarize the events. Can you use all of the vocabulary below? Make sure each person gets a turn to add a point. For extra practice, you can also summarize the events by writing a timeline.

- commercial jet
- on the scene
- collapse
- evacuate
- a last resort
- headquarters
- terror
- cockpit
- bunker
- casualties
- bear
- high alert