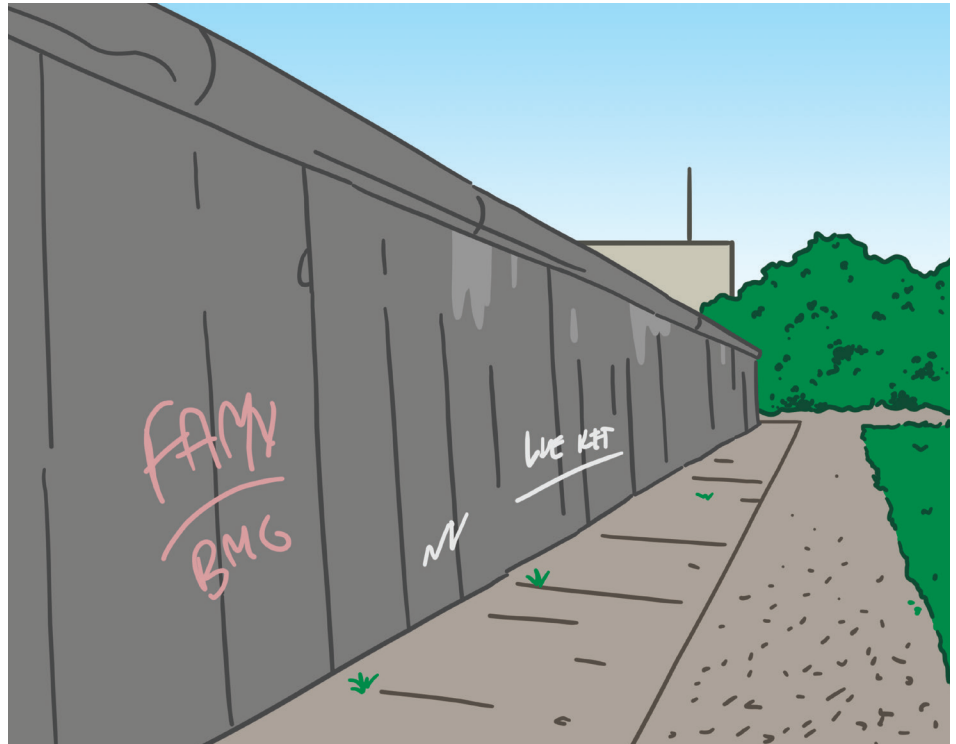


# The Berlin Wall

## Pre-Reading

### A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Look at a world map and find Berlin, Germany. Do you know what happened to Berlin after World War II?
2. Do you know who controlled Berlin right after the war ended?
3. Why do you think the Berlin Wall was built?
4. How did the political situation change in Eastern Europe in the late 1980s?
5. When were East and West Germany unified?



### B. Vocabulary Preview

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

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| _____ 1. barrier   | a) staff, workers  |
| _____ 2. tension   | b) to stop something from happening                              |
| _____ 3. fortify   | c) hurt  |
| _____ 4. abroad    | d) something that stops movement                                 |
| _____ 5. diplomat  | e) an order that something must not be done                      |
| _____ 6. military  | f) to make stronger  |
| _____ 7. personnel | g) army  |
| _____ 8. prevent   | h) problems, stress, difficult relations                         |
| _____ 9. injured   | i) a person who represents his/her government in another country |
| _____ 10. ban      | j) overseas, in a foreign country                                |

## Reading

1. The Berlin Wall was a **barrier** that separated West Berlin from East Berlin and the rest of East Germany.
2. After World War II, the city of Berlin was divided into four sectors. The Soviet Union controlled the eastern sector. The United States, Britain, and France controlled its western sectors.
3. East Berliners could still visit, shop, and even work in West Berlin. But by 1961 East Germany's poor economy and increased political **tension** between the Soviet Union and the West caused thousands of East Germans to move to the West. To stop people from leaving, on August 12, 1961, a wall was built to close the border.
4. The Berlin Wall began as a barbed-wire fence but was eventually **fortified** with concrete slabs. It was 96 miles long and almost 12 feet thick. Checkpoints along it allowed tourists from **abroad, diplomats,** and Western **military personnel** to cross into East Berlin. Guards patrolled it to **prevent** escapes, but 5,000 people escaped over the wall into West Berlin. Another 192 were killed and 200 were **injured** in failed attempts.
5. Around 1987, the political situation began to change. Mikhail Gorbachev, president of the Soviet Union, eased tensions with the West and introduced some liberal reforms, including a more open government. Citizens in other Communist-controlled European countries began to demand similar reforms.
6. In 1989, large anti-government demonstrations in East Germany forced the government to resign. The new government promised to lift the travel **ban** for East Germans. On November 9, a government minister mistakenly announced that they could cross into West Berlin immediately. That night, thousands went to the wall and the overwhelmed guards opened the checkpoints to let them through.
7. Within a year, the Berlin Wall was dismantled except for short sections that were left as memorials. East and West Germany were unified on October 3, 1990.
8. November 9, 2014, marked the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. More than a million people traveled to Berlin to take part in ceremonies that included fireworks and a 9-mile string of 7,000 helium balloons.

# 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 in your notebook.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. _____ From the time Berlin was first divided, East Berliners were not allowed to travel to West Berlin. | 3. _____ No one ever successfully escaped over the wall. |
| 2. _____ The Berlin wall was built to stop West Berliners from entering East Berlin.                       | 4. _____ The Berlin Wall existed for almost 30 years.    |
|  | 5. _____ Parts of the Berlin Wall were not torn down.    |

## B. Ask and Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write the answers in complete sentences.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. What was the Berlin Wall?<br>_____<br>_____                  | 5. How did Mikhail Gorbachev play a part in the dismantling of the Berlin Wall?<br>_____<br>_____   |
| 2. Why was the Berlin Wall built?<br>_____<br>_____             |   |
| 3. Describe the Berlin Wall.<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____         | 6. Why was the East German government forced to resign in 1989, and what did the new government promise to do?<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____ |
| 4. Who was allowed to cross into East Berlin?<br>_____<br>_____ | 7. What important event occurred on November 9, 1989?<br>_____<br>_____   |

# Vocabulary Review

## A. Complete the Sentences

Choose the correct words from the vocabulary list on page 1 to complete the following sentences.

1. She has learned two foreign languages while studying \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. The director of \_\_\_\_\_ is planning to hire 20 new workers.
3. Many governments have decided to \_\_\_\_\_ smoking in public buildings.
4. Three people were seriously \_\_\_\_\_ in the car accident.
5. Seat belts help \_\_\_\_\_ serious injuries in car accidents.

## B. Choose the Closest Meaning

Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word in the following sentences.

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 1. The Berlin Wall was built to close the <u>border</u> .<br>a) traffic<br>b) travel<br>c) dividing line between two countries | 3. He introduced some liberal <u>reforms</u> .<br>a) taxes<br>b) changes<br>c) demonstrations                        | 5. Within a year, the Berlin Wall was <u>dismantled</u> .<br>a) forgotten<br>b) opened<br>c) torn down |
| 2. Mikhail Gorbachev <u>eased</u> tensions with the West.<br>a) lessened<br>b) easy<br>c) increased                            | 4. Large anti-government demonstrations forced the government to <u>resign</u> .<br>a) quit<br>b) fight<br>c) escape |  |

## Discuss

1. What is the meaning of the Cold War? Have you ever heard of the expression "the Iron Curtain"? What do you imagine it means?
2. What kind of barriers exist between your country and its neighbors? Is it difficult to cross the border into neighboring countries? What kind of travel documents do you need to visit neighboring countries?
3. East and West Germany were separated for 45 years. What other countries have been separated as a result of war? How does this kind of separation affect the citizens?