

1. READ THE TEXT AND CLARIFY

1. You are going to read a text titled *The Fall of the Wall*. Discuss in a group:
 - (a) Look at the title, the headings and the picture. Can you predict the subject of the text?
 - (b) What have you already heard, read or seen about this subject?
 - (c) How would you feel when a wall was built to divide your city in two?

2. Read the explanation.

EXPLANATION

When you read a text, you probably do not know the meaning of all the words. There are some **strategies** to clarify the meaning of unknown words. Here is what the Step-by-Step Reading Guide tells us about the reading strategy **clarifying**:

What can you do when you read a word you don't understand?

First of all, ask yourself: Is this word important for me to understand the text?

If the answer is 'No', you can read on.

If the answer is 'Yes', you can:

- *Read part of the text again*: you may find a word that means the same or the opposite. Or you may find an explanation of that word.
- *Look at the picture*: maybe it has something to do with the word.
- *Look at the word*: sometimes you already know part of the word, for example from your own language.

However, sometimes the text doesn't give you enough clues to clarify the meaning of a word. When the word is really important to understand the text, you can use a **dictionary**.

When you use a dictionary, you should pay attention to the following:

- In a dictionary the words are sorted in **alphabetical order**. Therefore, you have to look at the first letter of a word to know where you can find this word in the dictionary. After the first letter you look at the second letter and so on.
- Sometimes you come across an irregular verb (for instance: *caught*). In that case you look up the **base form** or **stem** (in this case: *to catch*).

Sometimes you can find **several explanations** for a word in a dictionary. Then you choose the explanation that fits best in the text.

3. Read the text together with other classmates. While reading, underline or mark the words you don't know. You are going to look up a number of these words after reading the text.
4. (a) Now look at the table on the next page. It contains a number of words from the text you might not know. You may have underlined or marked a number of them!

- Do you already know the word? Write 1 in the second column.
- Do you think you can find the meaning from the word form? Write 2.
- Do you think the context can help you find the meaning? Write 3.
- Will you need to use a dictionary? Write 4.

(b) In the third column, you give your definition of the word, based on your own and your classmates knowledge, the word form and/or the context. Or, if none of these methods work, you give a proper dictionary definition.

word	1 to 4	meaning
to be a tribute to something (line 3)		
the call for something (line 5)		
to give way to (lines 7-8)		
allied (line 12)		
the division (line 13)		
the fence (line 22)		
devastating (line 21)		
to express (line 33)		
striking (line 37)		
to enforce (line 40)		
to result in something (line 41)		
the mistrust (42)		
scarce (line 44)		
vibrantly (line 48)		
the hardship (line 51)		

(c) Now complete the table above with four of the words you underlined or marked while reading.

2. DESCRIBE THE SITUATION

Before 1990, Germany was split in two: a western part and an eastern part. Likewise, the capital city Berlin was divided in two parts.

Look at the map below and describe what the situation was like in the Federal Republic of Germany (West) and the German Democratic Republic (East). Do the same for the capital city Berlin. You can write key words on the map. Use the information from the text.



Source: www.dw.com

3. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Explain, in your own words, why the fall of the Berlin Wall was an historic moment.

2. Why was Germany divided in two after World War Two? And how was this done?

3. How does the text under *Life with the Wall* relate to the text under *Why build a wall*?

- A. It contradicts what is said in the text under *Why build a wall*.
B. It expands on what is said in the text under *Why build a wall*.
C. It supports what is said in the text under *Why build a wall*.

4. Read the text under *Life with the Wall*. What is true?

- a) In West Germany, there was more freedom than in East Germany. true / false
b) Life in East Germany was very much like life in West Germany. true / false
c) People in East Germany were not allowed to read books from the West. true / false
d) When you lived in East Berlin, you could go to school in West Berlin. true / false
e) West Berlin was a very international place, but East Berlin was not. true / false
f) Artists from the West were allowed to give concerts in East Germany. true / false

5. Which of the following is in line with the text under *Life without the Wall*?

- A. During the period of the Wall people in West Germany were suppressed and not free to move around.
B. The period of the Wall was a dark time in German history and people should realise how lucky they are to live in freedom now.
C. The period of the Wall was an historic period in which people had much freedom to express their opinion.
D. The Wall meant freedom because people had all the possibilities in the world. For example, people could easily buy electronics.

6. Can you name other places in the world where a wall divides a city or country?

4. READ AND MATCH

1. Read the poem *Cold November Night*.
2. Match the content of the poem to fragments of the text *The Fall of the Wall*.

Cold November Night

When can a war be won without bloodshed?
On a cold November night,
When the darkness of half a century gave way to the light.

When can a victory be achieved without bitter sacrifice?
When people walk, march,
No weapons in hand,
Just a hammer,
To break down a wall.

On a cold November night,
Concrete blocks crumble,
Hostility turns to rubble
A continent rumbles,
To peaceful march
To loving embraces,
To smiling faces,
Tears of joy.

source: *Poems from the mind of Anthony P.*

<https://anthillel.wordpress.com/2014/11/09/cold-november-night/>

