

# Evacuees



Two days before the Second World War began, on September 1st, 1939, many people evacuated their children from the cities. This meant sending them to live in the countryside, often with strangers. The idea was to keep them away from any bombs dropped on the cities. By January 1940, the Germans hadn't bombed Britain and so many evacuees had returned. Nearly 60% had returned home by that point.

There was a second wave of evacuees during June 1940, after Germany invaded France. Not as many people were willing to send their children away, this time. They talked about a "phoney war" and didn't think Hitler would attack this time either. When the Germans finally started bombing Britain on September 7th, 1940, most of the remaining children were evacuated.

More people were evacuated in 1944, when the Germans began launching rockets at British cities. This time, a million women, children, elderly and disabled people were evacuated.

After the war, children returned to their parents, if their parents were still alive. Many were sent to orphanages, others remained at their new homes.



# FOCUS ON - WORD

**1** Underline the compound word in the sentence below.

This meant sending children to live in the countryside, often with strangers.

**2** Using the word evacuate, write a noun in the missing space.

A major \_\_\_\_\_ took place in 1944, where a million women, children, elderly and disabled people left their homes in fear of being attacked by Hitler.

**3** Tick the two sentences which use the plural possessive apostrophe correctly.

- The British government's idea was to keep children away from any bombs that may have been dropped on the cities.
- The Germans' bombs hit Britain on 7th September 1940.
- They didn't think Hitler would attack this time either.
- Strangers' homes welcomed evacuees from the cities.

## CHALLENGE

**4** Tick the box which contains a more formal word for the one underlined in this sentence.

Two days before the Second World War began, on September 1st, 1939, many people evacuated their children from the cities.

started

commenced

opened

took place

# FOCUS ON - SENTENCE

- 1** Rewrite the sentence below with the subordinate clause at the start.  
Remember to punctuate your sentence correctly.

After the war, children returned to their parents, if their parents were still alive.

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- 2** Insert a modal verb into the sentence below.  
Choose **one**.

After the war, children \_\_\_\_\_ return to their parents, if their parents were still alive.

will

can

may

would

- 3** Which word class do the underlined words belong to?  
Tick **one**.

Two days before the Second World War began, many people evacuated their children from the cities.

- adjectives
- nouns
- adverbs
- determiners

- 4** Underline the two prepositional phrases in this sentence.

Many people evacuated their children from the cities and sent them to live in the countryside.



# FOCUS ON - TEXT

## 1 Match the underline verbs in the sentences to its verb tense.

Match each box only once.

Not as many people were willing to send their children away this time.

After the war, children returned to their parents.

By January 1940, the Germans hadn't bombed Britain.

past

past perfect

past progressive

## 2 Write an adverbial in the missing space in the sentence.

When the Germans finally started bombing Britain on September 7th, 1940, most of the remaining children were evacuated \_\_\_\_\_.

## 3 Complete the sentences below.

Choose the correct tense from the verb written in each box.

The Germans \_\_\_\_\_ it was time to start bombing Britain in September 1940.

to decide

Children were sent to the countryside because their parents and the government believed it \_\_\_\_\_ safer for them.

to be

# FOCUS ON - PUNCTUATION

**1** Complete the table below.

no contraction apostrophe	using a contraction apostrophe
	hadn't
	didn't
would not	
will not	

**2** Tick the sentence where the brackets have been used correctly.

- In 1944, when the Germans began launching rockets on British cities, a million people (women, children, elderly and disabled were evacuated).
- In 1944, (when the Germans began launching rockets on British cities), a million people women, children, elderly and disabled were evacuated.
- In 1944, when the Germans began launching rockets on British cities, a million people (women, children, elderly and disabled) were evacuated.
- In 1944, when the Germans began launching rockets (on British cities, a million people women, children, elderly and disabled) were evacuated.

**3** Which punctuation mark should be used in the sentence below?

Tick one.

During World War II ↓ parents living in British cities made the decision to send their children to live in the countryside.

- dash
- full stop
- comma
- bracket

# Answers - Evacuees

## WORD

1. countryside
2. evacuation
3. 2nd option – The Germans' bombs hit Britain on 7th September 1940.
- 4th option – Strangers' homes welcomed evacuees from the cities.

## CHALLENGE QUESTION:

commenced

## SENTENCE

1. If their parents were still alive, children returned to their parents after the war.  
If their parents were still alive after the war, children returned to their parents,
2. would
3. 4th option – determiners
4. Many people evacuated their children from the cities and sent them to live *in the countryside*.

## TEXT

1. past progressive – Not as many people were willing to send their children away this time.  
past – After the war, children returned to their parents.  
past perfect – By January 1940, the Germans hadn't bombed Britain.
2. E.g. When the Germans finally started bombing Britain on September 7th, 1940, most of the remaining children were evacuated **immediately/straight away/instantly/at once/without delay.**
3. The Germans **decided** it was time to start bombing Britain in September 1940.  
Children were sent to the countryside because their parents and the government believed it **was** safer for them.

## PUNCTUATION

1. had not = hadn't  
did not = didn't  
would not = wouldn't  
will not = won't
2. 3rd option – In 1944, when the Germans began launching rockets on British cities, a million people (women, children, elderly and disabled) were evacuated.
3. 3rd option – comma