**Punctuation: form and function. PRACTICE.**

Below are six paragraphs from a nine-paragraph report in the *Guardian Weekly* newspaper. The report is structured in a question-answer format, to anticipate the readers’ need for information. All the punctuation marks have been taken out. Putting them back in will help you to think about coherence, as well as practising using capital letters and hyphens correctly.

Depleted uranium: an interactive guide by Derek Brown

**what is du and what is it used for**   
depleted uranium is essentially a waste product of nuclear power generation it is mildly radioactive and more importantly immensely dense it is installed in tank busting shells which it helps to punch through even modern high tech armour

**does that make the shells nuclear weapons**   
strictly no they are classed as conventional munitions but even so the heat and blast they generate cause horrific injuries especially in the confined space of an armoured vehicle and there are persistent worries about the effects of low grade radiation and what the world health organisation calls the chemical toxicity of the weapons

**how often are they used and where**   
apart from training exercises du shells have been fired in anger in two main conflicts operation desert storm in the gulf in 1991 and more recently in the balkans

**how many were fired**   
more than 100,000 du shells were fired during the gulf war to knock out iraqi armour and strongpoints more than 30,000 rounds were fired by nato forces during the 1999 kosovo conflict most of them by us tank busting A10 ground support jets around 10,000 rounds were fired in operations around sarajevo in the latter stages of allied operations in bosnia

**what side effects have been suffered by allied personnel**   
there lies the controversy the british and us governments have long denied that du ammunition is harmful although since labour came to power in 1997 the ministry of defence has been chivvied into providing more information to serving and former service personnel up to this week however the authorities have resisted calls for thorough and wideranging tests on soldiers who were literally in the firing line […]

**what does the usa say**  
the pentagon is sticking to the line that du may not be good for you but isnt especially harmful either except of course if its fired at you interestingly however there has been concern about the material within the military for at least ten years one of earliest warnings came in the so called los alamos internal memorandum dated march 1991

from: ***Guardian Unlimited*** **Thursday January 11, 2001**