- 1. Mark the parts that confuse you. Make a marginal note to explain how it confuses you. (Bold, underlined words in bold must be annotated.)
- 2. Use what context clues you can to make a guess about what confuses you.
- 3. Comment on the text by connecting to personal experience or previous knowledge.
- 4. Answer the questions on the back of the page.

Brussels bombers had planned to attack France again: prosecutors

Comprehension Comments

militant

The **militant** cell behind bombings in Brussels had been plotting to hit France again after carrying out the Paris attacks in November, but was forced to strike closer to home as police closed in, Belgian prosecutors said on Sunday.

evade

Investigations into the Islamic State attacks in Paris, which killed 130 people, showed that many of the perpetrators lived in Belgium, including surviving suspects who managed to **evade** police for more than four months. Prime suspect Salah Abdeslam was arrested on March 18 in the Belgian capital. Four days later, suicide bombers killed 32 people in Brussels airport and a rush-hour metro train.

"Numerous elements in the investigation have shown that the terrorist group initially had the intention to strike in France again," Belgium's federal prosecutor said in a statement. "Surprised by the speed of progress in the investigation, they took the decision to strike in Brussels."

dismantle

Belgian intelligence and security forces had been criticized abroad for not doing more to **dismantle** the militant cell, because of its links to the Paris attacks.

As of Friday, all publicly identified suspects were either in detention or dead, but Belgium remains on its second highest threat level, and Prime Minister Charles Michel said his government would remain alert. His comments were echoed by French Prime Minister Manuel Valls, who said France would not be lowering its guard. "This is a further sign of the very serious threat facing Europe as a whole and of course France in particular," Valls told a news conference in Algiers.

Abdeslam, born and raised in Belgium to Moroccan-born parents, told a **magistrate** he had planned to blow himself up at a sports stadium in Paris in November, but backed out at the last minute. His brother Brahim blew himself up at a Paris cafe.

Another man linked to the Paris attacks, Mohamed Abrini, was arrested in Brussels on Friday and admitted to being the "man in the hat" captured on video walking into Brussels airport alongside two suicide bombers. Abrini, 31, has been charged with terrorist murders, prosecutors said.

Another main suspect who was seen alongside the suicide bomber in the Brussels metro, identified by prosecutors as Osama K, was also arrested on Friday in the Belgian capital. Osama K, 28, widely named by media as Swedish national Osama Krayem, was filmed buying the bags used to carry the Brussels bombs.

Ouestions

- 1. What is the stem in "dismantle" that most helps you determine the word's meaning?
- 2. Who is the Prime Minister of Belgium?
- 3. What does the article reveal about the timing of the attack of the Brussels airport?
- 4. According to the article, why didn't Abdeslam blow himself up?

magistrate