

Climbing Mount Everest

SPEAKING

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_1056S_EN

LANGUAGE
English



lingoda



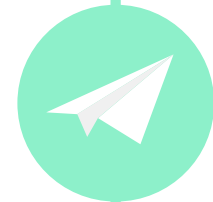


Goals

- Can read, listen to and understand a lengthy text about the challenges of climbing Mount Everest.
- Can speak fluently and in depth about the achievements and challenges faced on the mountain.



It's often cited as the ultimate challenge and climbing Mount Everest certainly isn't suited to the faint-hearted. Yet, despite the risks, Everest continues to lure climbers to its dangerous paths. Would you be brave enough to take on the challenge?





At one with nature



How do you feel about nature?
Are you a fan of urban
environments or are you a
country person at heart? Do you
enjoy spending time in nature?
How does it make you feel?



Landscape and natural environment

Look at the pictures of different landscapes below. How would you describe each landscape? Would you like to visit that place? Why (not)?



desolate



lush



How do you feel?

**Have you ever been
mountain climbing or
hill walking before?
What do you like or
dislike about it?**



Climbing Mount Everest

Standing at 8848 metres above sea level, Mount Everest is the world's highest mountain. As well as being the greatest peak on earth, interestingly Everest's summit also marks the international border between China and Nepal. For decades explorers and thrill seekers have been enthralled by this legendary mountain, and for many, climbing to the top remains the pinnacle of human challenges.

Throughout the 20th century a series of expeditions set out to tackle the arduous climb to the top of the mountain. The first recorded effort was made in 1921 by a team of British climbers. Since access to Nepal was strictly forbidden to foreigners at that time, the team had to try to access the mountain from the north ridge, on the Tibetan side. However, climbing Everest is certainly not for the faint-hearted; the climb is extremely dangerous with treacherous terrain, a high risk of avalanches, and the additional problem of having to tackle the effects of high altitude on the human body. The high altitude can quickly lead to altitude sickness, which can be fatal.



Vocabulary review

treacherous

The paths leading to the summit of Mount Everest are **treacherous**.

faint-hearted

A climb to the top of Mount Everest is not for the **faint-hearted**.

arduous

Taking on the challenge of this mountain climb is an **arduous** task that requires a lot of training and great physical fitness.

tackle

People have been warned not to **tackle** Mount Everest unless they have done a lot of serious training.



The greatest challenges

Have you ever climbed a mountain? What other incredible challenges are on par with climbing Mount Everest?

Do you know anyone who has taken on an incredible challenge like this? How was it?



Climbing Everest – then and now

Refer to the text to help you answer these questions.



1

Think of the date of that first recorded expedition. What are some of the challenges of climbing Everest and what would have been some additional difficulties during that time period?



Climbing Everest – then and now

Refer to the text to help you answer these questions.



1

Think of the date of that first recorded expedition. What are some of the challenges of climbing Everest and what would have been some additional difficulties during that time period?



2

Imagine you are a good friend of someone on that first expedition. Role play this with your teacher and try to discourage them from the expedition. Then swap roles.



Get ready to listen



The next few slides will focus on training your listening comprehension



Listening activity

As you listen to your teacher reading, fill in the gaps missing from the text below.

1. When Hunt and Hilary made it back to Kathmandu a few days after their _____ they were to discover some _____ news; they had been _____ by the British Empire in _____ of their achievement.
2. There are now too many people attempting to climb the mountain and this _____ of the routes makes the _____ even more dangerous, as the already _____ paths become _____ up at _____ times of the year.

knighted

overcrowding

clogged

expedition

trek

extraordinary

peak

recognition

narrow



What do you think?

Summarise the restrictions that used to be in place for mountaineers climbing Everest. Why do you think the Nepalese government hasn't reintroduced the rule?



Campaign for safety

Write a letter to the Nepalese government explaining the dangers they are exposing mountaineers to by having no restrictions in place. Be as persuasive as you can.

A large rectangular box with a thin black border, containing several horizontal lines for writing. The lines are spaced out, with a longer line at the top right, followed by a shorter line, then a series of seven medium-length lines, and finally a short line at the bottom left.



So, tell me about your expedition...

Imagine what headline news the successful climb of Everest must have been around the world. Imagine you are a journalist on the scene. What questions would you ask the team? Role play this with your teacher.





And you?

**Do you ever
dream of
climbing
Everest? Why
(not)?**



My greatest challenge

What's the greatest challenge you have ever tackled? What things do you dream of achieving?

“

Climbing Everest remains the pinnacle of human challenges.

”



Everest in the future

Imagine you work for the Nepalese tourism board. You are pitching Mount Everest as a tourist destination. Make a short presentation using what you have learnt in this lesson. Remember to include information about the history and the natural environment. Talk also about the enduring appeal of this challenge and any safety measures that may be necessary in the future.



safety

challenge

history

natural beauty



Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!

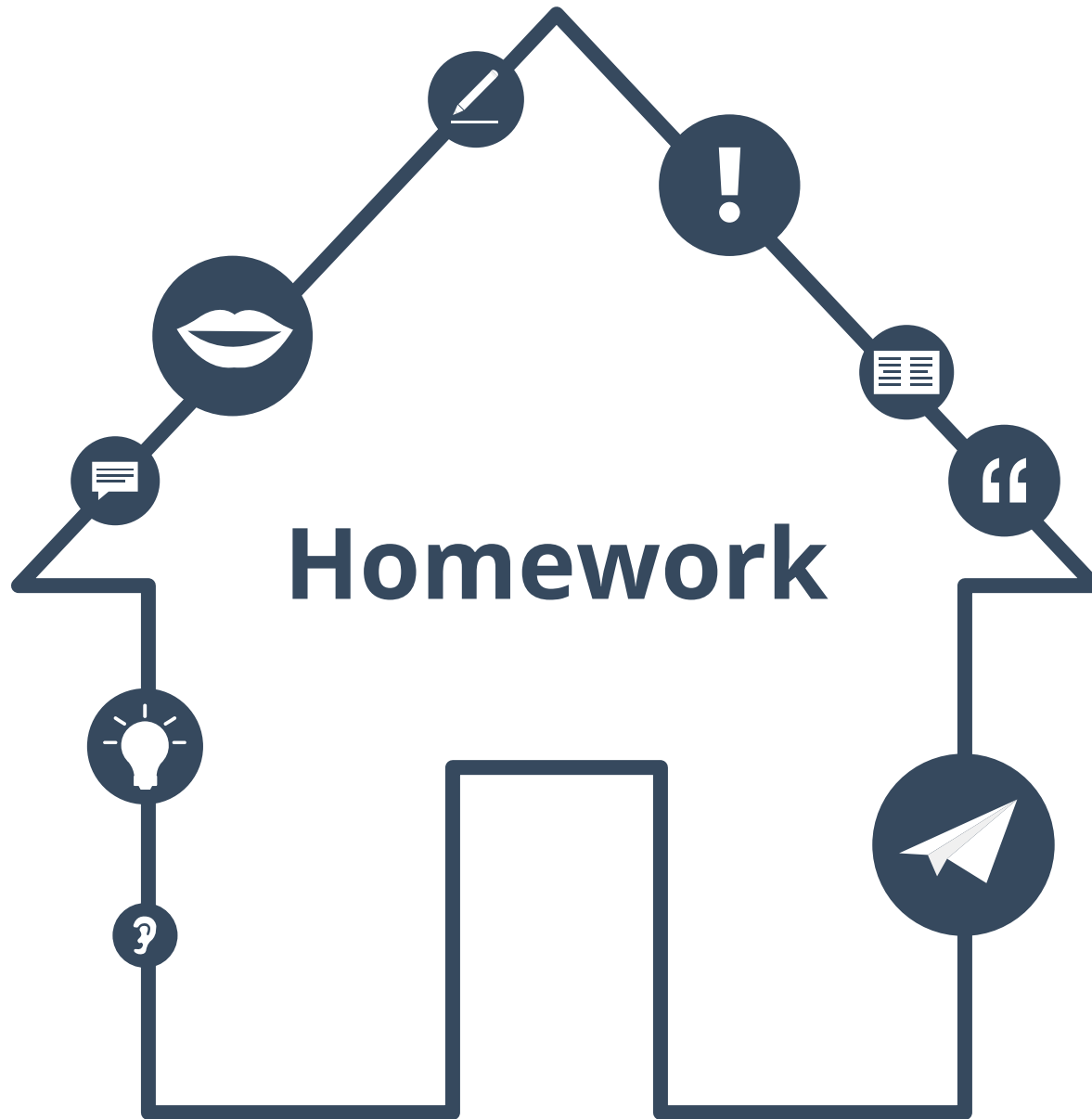




Transcription

In fact, the team who made the first recorded effort to climb the peak in 1921 didn't make it to the summit but only to the 7000 metre mark. It wasn't until 1953 that New Zealand born Edmund Hillary and the Nepali Sherpa climber Tenzing Norgay would make it all the way to the top in an expedition led by the British man John Hunt. When Hunt and Hillary made it back to Kathmandu a few days after their expedition they were to discover some extraordinary news; they had been knighted by the British Empire in recognition of their achievement. Sadly, not all attempts to climb Everest have met with success, at present over 290 people have died during attempts to climb the mountain.

As well as the risks climbing Everest poses in terms of altitude and environment, there is also a new and more recent danger to would be climbers. There are now too many people attempting to climb the mountain and this overcrowding of the routes makes the trek even more dangerous, as the already narrow paths become clogged up at peak times of the year. Up until 1985 the government of Nepal allowed only one expedition on each route at a time, however at present no such restriction exists. Many mountaineers have lobbied the Nepalese government to bring back limits on the number of people allowed on the mountain but so far nothing has changed.





Reflect

Reflect on this lesson. What did you find the easiest part or parts of the lesson? What was especially difficult? Why?

A vertical sheet of white paper with a spiral binding on the left side and horizontal lines for writing, intended for the user to provide their reflection.



Dream, describe

Climbing Mount Everest is an incredible challenge but it's not for everyone! What challenge do you dream of tackling? Write about it here and say why you are so drawn to it. What would be the greatest difficulties of this challenge and why would you enjoy it?

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