What was the main objective of early mountain climbers?

Modern alpinists try to climb mountains by a route that will give them good sport, and the more difficult it is, the more highly it is regarded.

In the pioneering days, however, this was not the case at all.

The early climbers were looking for the easiest way to the top, because the summit was the prize they sought, especially if it had never been attained before.

It is true that during their explorations, they often faced difficulties and dangers of the most perilous nature, equipped in a manner that would make a modern climber shudder at the thought, but they did not go out of their way to court such excitement.

They had a single aim, a solitary goal, the top!

It is hard for us to realize nowadays how difficult it was for the pioneers.

Except for one or two places, such as Zermatt and Chamonix, which had rapidly become popular, Alpine villages tended to be impoverished settlements cut off from civilization by the high mountains.

Such inns as there were were generally dirty and flea-ridden; the food was simply local cheese accompanied by bread, often twelve months old, all washed down with coarse wine.

Often, a valley boasted no inn at all, and climbers found shelter wherever they could, sometimes with the local priest (who was usually as poor as his parishioners), sometimes with shepherds or cheese makers.

Invariably, the background was the same: dirt and poverty, and very uncomfortable.

For men accustomed to eating seven-course dinners and sleeping between fine linen sheets at home, the change to the Alps must have been very hard indeed.

The modern climber’s attitude differs from that of the pioneer in that the modern climber wants a route that will give him good sport, whereas the pioneer is only interested in getting to the top by the easiest route.

The three factors that made most Alpine villages inhospitable places were poverty, dirt, and discomfort.

Chris Bonnington was the first person ever to reach the summit of the Eiger by a route that included the sheer North Face.

The chance to become well educated is widely regarded as the best opportunity a person can have.

Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay reached the summit of Mount Everest on May 29, 1952.

Various experts have sought an explanation for the strange lights seen occasionally in the sky in Western Scotland, but so far without success.

The prisoner faced her accusers in court with confidence.

Without her engine and drifting towards the rocky shore, the ship was in an increasingly perilous situation.

How is it that one nation will delight in eating delicacies that make another nation shudder?

Using a chainsaw without proper training and protective clothing is a courting disaster.

This cup is the solitary survivor of my grandmother’s set of twelve.

The wool from Herdwick sheep, a hardy mountain breed, is so coarse that it is mainly used for carpet making.

The village had once boasted a school and a small general shop, but these had disappeared when the new road was built.

Friday is invariably the busiest day of the week on the road.

The more expensive petrol becomes, the less people drive.

The more you try to explain, the worse your situation becomes.

The sooner I finish this job, the better I shall feel.

They couldn't avoid getting wet.

It is difficult to say the right thing when people are grieving.

It is easy for you to be cheerful about it, but it was my money.

I always find it impossible to refuse such requests.

Such freedom must be balanced by personal responsibility.

I had not expected to encounter such difficulty.

Such films as were completed at that time were interesting only in terms of photographic technique.

I am used to babies waking me in the middle of the night.

Do you object to my opening the window for a little while?

I am looking forward to seeing you on the 23rd.

Do you know the date of the last recorded case of smallpox?

The waiter brought me the bill and I didn’t have enough money. I’d never been in such a situation before.

I think you’ll find this article especially interesting.

I’ve had this area specially designed as a herb garden.

I hope you realize that you’re making a big mistake.

I don’t think I understand the meaning of the sentence.

Except for one old lady, the bus was empty.

You can have any of the cakes except this one.

He wore an old jacket made of coarse cloth.

In a French household, soup is generally the first course of the main meal of the day.

When I’m abroad, my thoughts are never far from home.

They live in a large house.

They did not go out of their way to court such excitement.

Please ask him to get out of the way; I can’t get past.

We bought a beautiful out-of-the-way cottage, miles from anywhere.

Please move that table. Can’t you see it’s in the way?

I’ll call in and see you on my way home from work.

We must do this exercise in the way we have been taught.