



Mystery on Mt. Everest (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Are there any high mountains in your country?
2. If so, which is the highest?
3. Do you like mountain sports?
4. Have you ever done mountain climbing?

B – Listen and answer

Read these incomplete statements. Then listen (without reading) and complete them.

1. Hilary and Norgay reached the top of Mount Everest in June, _____.
2. Some think Mallory and Irvine vanished on their way _____ the top in June 1924.
3. In 1924, Mallory's team had already made _____ attempts to reach the summit and failed.
4. On 7th June, Mallory and Irvine reached Camp _____, the highest camp on Everest.
5. In 1975, a _____ mountaineer, Wang Hongbao, saw the body of a climber near the camp.
6. Mallory's body was found in 1999, about _____ or _____ hours from the camp.
7. He was almost certainly the victim of a _____.
8. He intended to leave a photo of _____ at the summit, and the photo was missing.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What experience had Mallory had of Everest before the 1924 expedition?
2. Why was Sandy Irvine considered an unusual choice of partner for Mallory?
3. Where were the two men when they were last seen alive?
4. Why did Noel Odell lose sight of them?
5. Why did Wang Hongbao describe the body he saw as "old English"?
6. What stopped Wang Hongbao from giving further information about the location of the body?
7. What indicates that Mallory most probably fell to his death?
8. What could one day show whether the two climbers reached the top of the mountain?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from plural to singular.)

1. When Paula fell and cut her leg, the local chemist medicated the _____.
2. The police organised a _____ to look for the lost child in the forest.
3. Although the station was crowded, we _____ our friend because he's tall with red hair.
4. There's a red _____ on the map to show you where you are now.
5. I always wear _____ when swimming in the sea, because the salt water irritates my eyes.
6. To strengthen your back muscles, lie _____ on the floor and lift your shoulders.

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 6)

Write one word only in each space.

George Mallory had a passion for climbing from an ¹_____ age. As his father was a reverend, the family always ²_____ near churches and, even as a small child, Mallory climbed their stone walls and any tall trees he ³_____ find. According to his sister, he climbed everything it was at all possible to climb.

While at a school in Winchester, as an 18-year-old, Mallory ⁴_____ Graham Irving, an experienced mountaineer and a ⁵_____ of the Alpine Club. Together they went climbing in the Alps.

After World War I, Mallory joined an exploratory expedition to Mount Everest. By this time, he was ⁶_____ with three children. In spite of this, climbing was now the most important thing in his life.

F – Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. Can you name any famous mountaineers from your country?
 2. If so, which mountains have they climbed? When?
 3. Over 300 people have died on Everest. Why do you think people practise dangerous sports?
 4. Have you ever tried any extreme sport?
 5. Would you like to climb Everest? Why (not)?
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Answers: Mystery on Mt. Everest (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. 1953 2. down from 3. two 4. VI / six 5. Chinese 6. one – two 7. fall 8. his wife

C – Read and answer

1. He had taken part in two earlier expeditions in the 1920s. 2. He was the least experienced member of the expedition. 3. They were on Everest's Northeast Ridge, just a few hundred metres from the summit. 4. Because mist and clouds covered them. 5. Because the person was wearing old-fashioned clothes. 6. He died in an avalanche the day after mentioning his discovery. 7. He was face down with his arms above his head. 8. Mallory's or Irvine's camera. If the one or both of the cameras were found, they could contain photographs of the two climbers on the summit.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. wound 2. search party 3. spotted 4. dot 5. goggles 6. face down

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

1. early 2. lived 3. could 4. met 5. member 6. married