

ProTalk

Discussion Files

afaq

Language Center

C2. Climbing Mount Everest

Afaq Language Center

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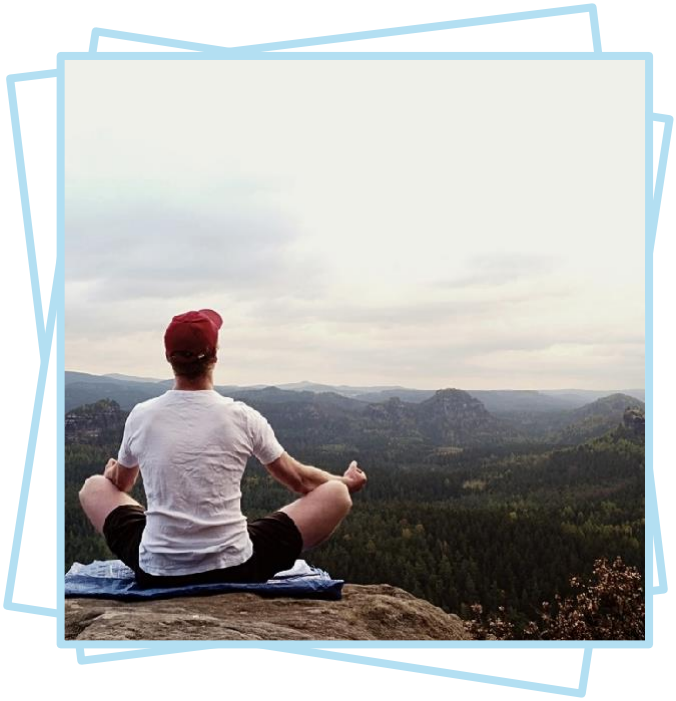
Goals

- Can read and understand a lengthy text about the challenges of climbing Mount Everest.
- Can speak fluently and in depth about the achievements of and challenges faced by others.



It‘s often cited as the ultimate challenge and climbing Mount Everest certainly isn’t suited to the faint of heart. 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?

Read the text and summarize 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.

Do you know these words from the text? Discuss the meanings with your teacher and use each in a sentence.

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.



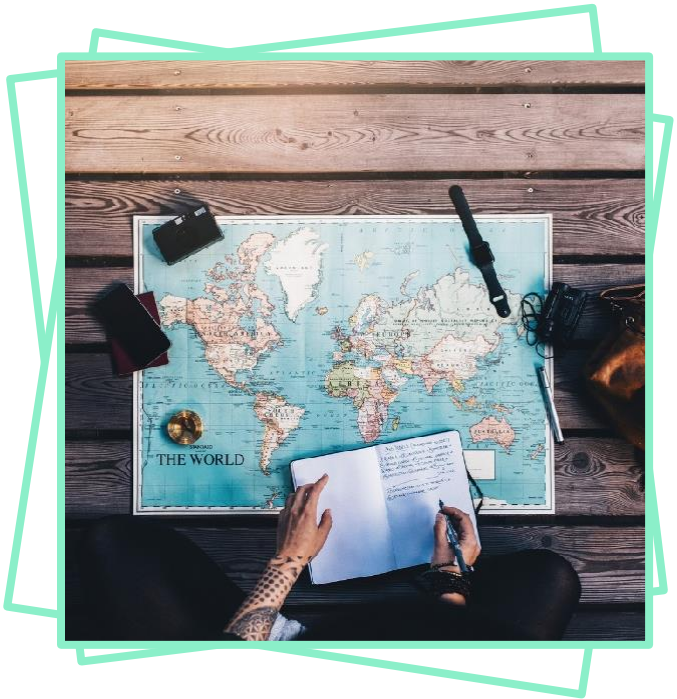
1 Think of the date of that first recorded expedition. What are some of the challenges of climbing Everest and what would have been some additional difficulties during that time period?



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.

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

Presentation

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

Include several reasons to support your point of view.

Give your presentation to the class. Answer questions and get feedback.