

6.5 Reading for pleasure

The Everest Story

- 1 Look at the photos of two climbers, George Mallory and Edward Norton, on Mount Everest in the 1920s. What equipment can you see in the photos?



- 2 Read the extract from *The Everest Story*.
- 3 Do you know what happens next? Would you like to climb a mountain like Everest?

The story so far

It is 1924. Three experienced climbers, George Mallory, Edward Norton and Howard Somervell, are on Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain, but four of their porters (the Tibetan men who are carrying their equipment) are higher up the mountain, cold, alone and afraid. In this extract from the Everest story, the climbers must rescue the porters before they die of cold ...

Saving the porters

'Are you alive?' the climbers asked. 'Can you walk?'

'Yes sir,' a porter answered. 'But we're afraid. It's too dangerous. If we slip, we'll fall and die!'

'If you stay there, you'll die of cold,' Norton said. 'Wait there – we're coming to get you.'

Very carefully, Somervell climbed across the steep slope, towards the four porters. He had a rope round his waist. Mallory and Norton held the rope from below, to keep Somervell safe. But when he was five metres away from the porters, Somervell reached the end of the rope.

'What do I do now?' he thought. 'We have no more rope, and it will soon be dark.'

'Come across!' he called out to the porters. 'It's not far. Carefully, one at a time.'

The first two porters reached Somervell safely. Then they climbed past him, holding the rope, towards Norton and Mallory. Somervell looked at the last two porters.

'Come on,' he said. 'It's not difficult. One at a time.'

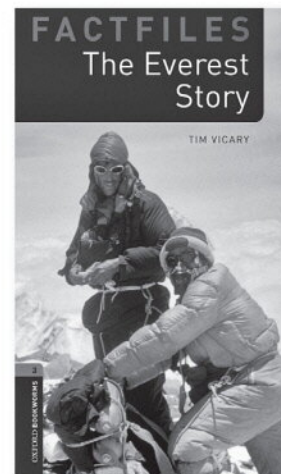
But the porters were afraid, and both started together. A second later they slipped and fell. They slid past Somervell down the slope, towards the valley thousands of metres below. But then, a few metres from the edge of the slope, they stopped.

'Don't move,' Somervell said. 'Just wait for me.'

He drove his ice axe deep into the snow. He untied the rope from his waist, and passed it round the head of the ice axe. Then, holding his end of the rope with one hand, Somervell climbed down until he could just reach the men with his other hand. He pulled up the first man, then the second. They climbed along the rope to Mallory and Norton. Somervell tied the rope round his waist again, and climbed back after them.

Even now they were not safe. It was nearly dark, and a long way above Camp 3. One of the porters, Namgya, could not use his hands, because he had bad frostbite. But at last they reached Camp 3, where two more climbers, Noel and Odell, were waiting with warm food.

All the climbers were exhausted. Mallory and Somervell could not stop coughing, and Norton's feet hurt badly. Helping the four porters had made them very, very tired. And they were nowhere near the summit of Everest.



Review: Units 5 and 6

Grammar

- Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.
 - I don't like *drive* / *driving* really fast.
 - Have you ever thought about *take* / *taking* your driving test?
 - My van, *who* / *which* I only bought last month, has broken down.
 - I don't remember the name of the man *who* / *whose* car I crashed into.
 - We can't afford *to buy* / *buying* a new car at the moment.
 - I recommend *to take* / *taking* that car for a test drive.
 - The crash, *that* / *which* took place early this morning, was reported on the national news.
 - There are a number of drivers - / *that* really worry me on the roads today.

- Complete the text with the past simple, present perfect simple or present perfect continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

Since it ¹ *began* (begin) in 1978, the *Sundance Film Festival* in Utah ² _____ (be) a showcase for new films from independent filmmakers. At first, the festival ³ _____ (only/show) American films, but since the 1980s, it ⁴ _____ (also/show) feature films and documentaries from all over the world. Over the years, a number of important directors ⁵ _____ (become) famous as a direct result of taking part in the festival. Quentin Tarantino is just one example. When audiences ⁶ _____ (see) his first movie *Reservoir Dogs* at the festival, they ⁷ _____ (love) it. He ⁸ _____ (make) successful movies ever since.

Vocabulary

- Circle the correct word to make compound nouns.

1 rain	a <u>fall</u>	b warming	c slides
2 steering	a light	b wheel	c limit
3 climate	a warming	b damage	c change
4 traffic	a jam	b crash	c brake
5 heat	a shortages	b warming	c wave
6 special	a effects	b actors	c plots
7 action	a cast	b plot	c hero
8 speed	a road	b limit	c wheel

- Complete the news stories with the words in the box.

accident damage injured junction shortages temperatures

There was a serious car ¹ *accident* at the ² _____ between Howard Street and Spencer Road this morning. Two people were ³ _____ and taken to hospital.

As a result of the hot weather, farmers are worried about water ⁴ _____ and crop ⁵ _____ in the region. High ⁶ _____ will continue throughout the week and there is no sign of rain.

- Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets. Then choose the correct intensifying adverb.

- I know exactly what will happen at the end of this play. It's *very* / *absolutely* _____ (predict).
- The horror film was *very* / *absolutely* _____ (terrify)! I screamed!
- It's *very* / *absolutely* _____ (freeze) in here. Can we put the heater on?
- Making a film is a *very* / *absolutely* _____ (stress) thing to do.
- Actors often feel *very* / *absolutely* _____ (nerve) on their first day on the set of a new film.
- Her performance was *really* / *absolutely* _____ (surprise). I didn't think she could be so good.

Speaking

- Order the words to make sentences.

- I / see / recommend / going / wouldn't / to / it .

I wouldn't recommend going to see it.
- be / I thought / than / it's / it would / much funnier .

- his / as good / it's / first film / like / as / nothing .

- on Saturday / I / the / party / can't make .

- I'm / be / to / babysitting / meant / then .

- got / afraid / I'm / on / else / I've / something .

- I'll / you / confirm / with / later / it .
