



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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Speaking with Animals (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you like watching documentaries about animals and their behaviour?
2. If so, which animals are you most interested in?
3. Do you think animals are able to communicate with each other?
4. If so, what do they use to communicate?
5. Do you know of any experiments on communication between humans and animals?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. The translation of non-human communication is impossible at present.
2. Attempts to teach human words to animals began in the last century.
3. Human languages are translated using multi-dimensional geometry.
4. Earth Species Project is working on recorded data from several types of animal.
5. Project CETI is also studying various creatures, including bees and birds.
6. There are millions of animal species on earth, but opinions vary on the number of millions.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What has made it possible for apps to translate rapidly from one language to another?
2. What aspects of animal behaviour have scientists studied and attempted to interpret?
3. What made these studies difficult?
4. What does ESP use machine learning for?
5. What does it think the project will achieve?
6. What does Project CETI use to study sperm whales?
7. What other animals are being studied by experts?
8. How is the AI analysis of digital recordings described in the article?

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. My grandfather's a bit deaf but he refuses to get a _____.
2. It costs a lot to get a watch repaired. Watch repairers say it's a very _____ job.
3. The use of computers has made it possible to forecast weather events more _____.
4. We _____ to finish the report last week, but it was more complex than we thought.
5. Tom was good at languages and this _____ him to get a job in an import-export firm.
6. Mia's an astronomer, so her friends gave her a birthday cake in the _____ of a star.

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 5)

Choose the correct word in brackets for each space.

In the 1960s on a Caribbean island, an American neuroscientist, John C. Lilly, carried ¹_____ (off/out/on/over) experiments on dolphins and their ability to communicate with humans. ²_____ (Together/With/Between/Among) other things, he organised English lessons for a bottle-nosed dolphin called Peter. A volunteer lived with Peter for 2½ months in a house where the ground ³_____ (floor/plane/pavement/stage) was filled with sea water. After a few weeks, the dolphin was ⁴_____ (good/able/allowed/unable) to imitate human sounds and could follow instructions and perform tasks that the instructor ⁵_____ (said/made/told/stopped) it to do. Later in the project, it learnt to distinguish between commands like: "Take the ball to the doll", and "Take the doll to the ball". Lilly suggested that the dolphin's ability to understand basic grammar ⁶_____ (should/will/might/must) possibly mean that its own language contained grammar rules.

F – Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. Do you think it will be possible to speak to animals one day? Why (not)?
2. If it became possible, what do you think the advantages would be for humans and animals?
3. Would there be any disadvantages, in your opinion?
4. Have you got any pets? If so, do you talk to them? Do they understand you?
5. How do pets (dogs, cats, horses, etc.) communicate with their owners and with each other?

Belching Volcano and Flowing Lava Dent Tourism in Icelandic Region (C1 - Advanced)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do earthquakes occur in your country?
2. If so, which ones have been the most destructive? Have you ever experienced one?
3. Are there any active volcanoes in your country?
4. If so, where are they? Have you ever seen an eruption? Have eruptions ever affected tourism?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. The volcanos in the Reykjanes Peninsular last erupted hundreds of years ago.
2. The eruptions and earthquakes in the peninsular began again about three years ago.
3. The evacuation of Grindavik in November 2023 had a limited impact on tourism.
4. The Icelandic Tourism Board didn't warn visitors to stay away.
5. Birgir Jonsson of the low-cost airline Play said in his opinion Iceland was ruined.
6. The Blue Lagoon resort and some hotels in the area have had to close a few times.
7. The Blue Lagoon attracts a large number of tourists from the USA.
8. Since January, the situation has improved for businesses in the peninsula.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What do tourists go to the Blue Lagoon resort for?
2. What casualties and damage have been caused by volcanic activity in the peninsular?
3. Who did airline officials and the Tourist Board director blame for the drop in bookings? Why?
4. What work has been done in the peninsular to try to stop the flow of lava?
5. Why is it ironic that the Blue Lagoon is being threatened by the volcanic system?
6. Why does Fridrik Einarsson see his relationship with volcanoes as contradictory?

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. The largest _____ in the world is Victoria Falls, on the Zambezi River in southern Africa.
2. Pack some warm clothes. There's going to be a sudden _____ in temperature on Sunday.
3. When we went to the coast, the children always _____ in the sea, whatever the weather.
4. There are no hotels on the island, just a couple of _____.
5. James is always in debt. He _____ all his friends money.
6. The winter sales start after Christmas and people _____ to them hoping to get a bargain.

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test? (Reading and Use of English, Part 4)

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given. Use between 3 and 6 words including the word given.

Example: The resort had to evacuate its guests when lava burst from a nearby crater.

FORCING Lava burst from a nearby crater, forcing the resort to evacuate its guests.

1. The Blue Lagoon consists of steaming pools with dark rocks all around them.

BY The Blue Lagoon is a network of _____ dark rocks.

2. The volcano system hadn't erupted since the 1200s.

DORMANT The Volcano system _____ eight hundred years.

3. Iceland needs a lot of visitors to support its economy.

HEAVILY Iceland has an economy _____ on visitors.

4. The tourism board denied that visitors were directly threatened by the eruptions.

REPRESENT The tourism board said the eruptions did not _____ visitors.

5. The website claims the spa is visited by many thousands of people every year.

TO Every year, _____, many thousands of people visit the spa.

6. The resort exists because of the geothermal energy from the volcanic system.

OWES The resort _____ geothermal energy from the volcanic system.

F – Write about it

Write about a natural disaster in your country. Include information about:

- when/where it happened;
- what caused it;
- what the consequences were (casualties, damage, disruption, etc.)
- what (if anything) could be done to prevent or mitigate similar events in the future.

Stephen King – Fifty Years Scaring Us (C1 - Advanced)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you like horror stories? Why (not)?
2. Can you name any famous horror films?
3. Why do you think people enjoy being scared?
4. What do you know about Stephen King?

B – Listen and answer

Part 1

Read these statements. Then listen to Track 12 (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. Stephen King's novel *Carrie* was his first best-seller.
2. Canadian writer Bev Vincent's book about King is mainly a biography.
3. Vincent thinks Stephen King manages to get his readers to sympathise with his characters.
4. From the beginning, King wanted to avoid being categorised as a horror writer.
5. His first four novels published under a pseudonym weren't very successful.
6. King was influenced by his hard-working father and mother.
7. When King starts writing, he knows exactly how the story will develop.
8. Today's literary critics take Stephen King's writing seriously.

Part 2

Read these statements. Then listen to Track 13 (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. In *The Shining*, Jack Torrance finds a job as the manager of a hotel.
2. Randall Flagg is the hero of several of King's works.
3. In *Pet Sematary*, Gage Creed dies twice.
4. In *It*, Pennywise is a clown who helps a group of children eliminate the evil creature It.
5. Annie Wilkes, who appears in *Misery*, is said to be the character that King likes most.

C – Read and answer

Read the two articles about Stephen King and answer the questions.

1. How is Bev Vincent's book organised?
2. What two qualities of Stephen King's books make them so readable, according to Bev Vincent?
3. How was *Blaze* different from King's previous book *Carrie*?
4. What reasons did King have for writing under a pseudonym?
5. What three elements in his life have stopped him from becoming too conceited?
6. Where does Stephen King often set his stories?
7. Which scary character of King's developed from something he wrote before any of his novels?
8. Which scary character seems to be a kind, sympathetic person at the beginning of the novel?
9. Which scary character feeds on humans?
10. Which scary character kills his mother?

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 pronoun or the verb tense.)

1. Nobody likes Joe. He's too vain and _____.
2. Jazz music is a _____ of different musical styles, like blues, ragtime and spirituals.
3. Before the arrival of underground _____, there were frequent cholera epidemics in London.
4. Actors who often play the same kind of role risk being _____.
5. There's something moving about up in that tree, but I can't _____ what it is.
6. Paul wanted to eat at home; Anne preferred to eat out. After some discussion, Anne _____.

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test? (Reading and Use of English, Part 3)

Use the word in brackets to form a word that fits in the space given.

1. Stephen King's books contain _____ (RECUR) themes, characters and places.
2. These build a literary universe that becomes _____ (FRIGHTEN) familiar.
3. Bev Vincent says part of King's _____ (BRILLIANT) is in his characterisation.
4. King's stories don't all have a happy _____ (END).

- King had the _____ (SATISFY) of knowing his books sold well even with a pseudonym.
- Bev Vincent describes Stephen King as a modest and _____ (PRETENCE) person.
- King creates his stories from an idea, without preparing an _____ (LINE).
- He likes to joke that he has now _____ (LIVE) the critics that once disliked his books.

F – Write about it

Write about one of your country's famous living novelists. Include information about:

- his/her life;
 - what kind of novels he/she writes;
 - his/her best-known works;
 - any film or TV adaptations;
 - any literary awards.
-

Answers: Mystery on Mt. Everest (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

- 1953
- down from
- two
- VI / six
- Chinese
- one – two
- fall
- his wife

C – Read and answer

- He had taken part in two earlier expeditions in the 1920s.
- He was the least experienced member of the expedition.
- They were on Everest's Northeast Ridge, just a few hundred metres from the summit.
- Because mist and clouds covered them.
- Because the person was wearing old-fashioned clothes.
- He died in an avalanche the day after mentioning his discovery.
- He was face down with his arms above his head.
- 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!

- wound
- search party
- spotted
- dot
- goggles
- face down

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

- early
 - lived
 - could
 - met
 - member
 - married
-

Answers: Speaking with Animals (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

- T
- F – People have attempted to do so for centuries.
- T
- T
- F – It is studying sperm whales.
- T

C – Read and answer

- A special form of AI called machine learning.
- They have studied and attempted to interpret the signals, gestures and sounds of animals.
- The work of observation, recording and data-analysis was time-consuming.
- It uses it to check for alignment between animal sounds and signals and human language.
- It thinks it will support conservation and change human relationships with nature.
- It uses underwater microphones, digital mini-recorders, drones and robot fish.
- Other animals being studied are elephants, mole rats, turtles, bees, birds and fruit bats.
- It's described as a "planetary-scale hearing aid" to other species.

D – Learn it! Use it!

- hearing aid
- time-consuming
- accurately
- aimed
- enabled
- shape

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam?

- out
 - Among
 - floor
 - able
 - told
 - might
-

Answers: Belching Volcano and Flowing Lava Dent Tourism in Icelandic Region (C1 - Advanced)

B – Listen and answer

1. T 2. T 3. F – It had a significant negative impact on tourism. 4. T 5. F – He said it looked like that in the international press. 6. T 7. T 8. F – Tourism demand has gone up in Iceland but the situation has not improved for businesses in the peninsular.

C – Read and answer

1. They go there to dip in the pools of geothermal water and to have spa treatments. 2. There has been one death and the destruction of some houses. 3. They blamed the news media because they claimed they were engaging in alarmism. 4. Protection walls have been built. 5. The same volcanic system that provides the geothermal energy which heats up the resort's waters is now threatening to destroy it. 6. He describes it as a love-hate situation because he thinks it's magnificent to see a volcano erupting, and volcanoes provide his living, but now they are ruining his business.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. waterfall 2. drop 3. dipped 4. inns 5. owes 6. flock

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test?

1. steaming pools surrounded by 2. had been dormant for 3. that/which relies/depends heavily (or: that/which is heavily reliant/ dependent) 4. represent a direct threat to 5. according to the website 6. owes its existence to the

Answers: Stephen King – Fifty Years Scaring Us (C1 - Advanced)

B – Listen and answer

Part 1

1. F – His first best-seller was *The Shining*. 2. F – It's an analysis of all his books, as well as his life and influences. 3. T 4. F – At first he didn't mind. 5. T 6. F – He was influenced by his hard-working mother. His father left when he was two. 7. F – He writes without knowing how the story will end. 8. T

Part 2

1. F – He finds a job as a hotel caretaker. 2. F – He's the villain of several of King's works. He's not a hero. 3. T 4. F – Pennywise is one of the forms that the evil creature It takes. 5. T

C – Read and answer

1. It's organised in chronological order. 2. The stories are told in a compelling way and the characters are people that readers can relate to. 3. It wasn't a story about the supernatural or a horror story. 4. He wanted to break free from his usual formula and he was curious to see whether his books would sell without his name on them. He also wished to have all his books published. Publishers would only publish one or two of an author's books per year, and Stephen King wrote a lot more. 5. His mother, his wife and his life in Maine. 6. In the two fictional towns of Castle Rock and Derry. 7. Randall Flagg. 8. Annie Wilkes. 9. Pennywise/It. 10. Gage Creed.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. full of himself 2. blend 3. sewers 4. pigeon-holed/branded 5. make out 6. prevailed

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test?

1. recurring 2. frighteningly 3. brilliance 4. ending 5. satisfaction 6. unpretentious 7. outline 8. outlived