

Big Adventures

Lesson One



Before you read

- Why might you like to have an adventure?
- What kind of adventures might you enjoy?

What are these people doing? Would you be afraid to try?



Afraid of climbing?

Language note

A *silhouette* is a dark shape or shadow, seen against a light background.



Read about it

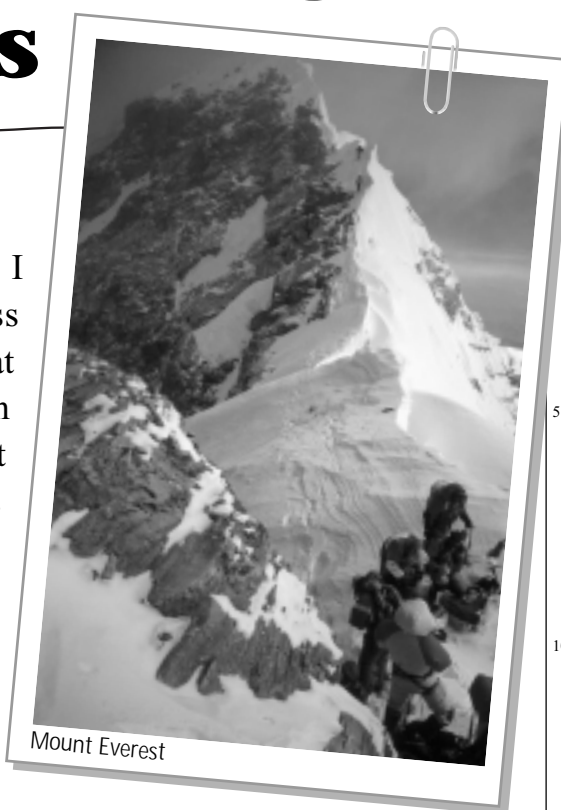
- Who is Ken Noguchi?
- Why did Ken Noguchi go to so many countries when he was young?

Asian Kids Taking Challenges

Dear Angela,

I'm looking for an adventure. I want to live a life a little less ordinary, but I don't know what to do. One of the ways I've been trying to find out is to look at what challenges other Asian kids have taken. The best example I've found so far is Ken Noguchi, from Tokyo, Japan.

Ken's father was a diplomat so Ken traveled a lot when he was a kid. His family lived in the United States, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and other countries. He went to a boarding school in Britain but was kicked out for misbehavior. When it seemed he couldn't control his temper and started falling behind, his father suggested he travel. On one of his trips, he found a book at a train station that changed his life. It was about the adventurer Naomi Uemura who was the first Japanese to climb Mount Everest. He also climbed the highest peaks on each of the other six continents.



Mount Everest

Reading strategy

Most writers think about a wide audience (a lot of people) when they write. Letters, however, are different. The audience is as few as one person so the writer doesn't need to explain as much.

Language note

The seven continents are Africa, Antarctica, Australia, Europe, Asia, North America and South America.

Ken Noguchi set out to do the same thing—and became the youngest person to do so. He climbed Mont Blanc in Europe when he was sixteen and Mount Everest when he was twenty-four. Since then, he has worked to improve the environment.

25 What kind of adventure could I have? I've been looking through the atlas and thinking about it. Perhaps I could plan to sail down the longest rivers on each of the continents or hike through each of the world's greatest forests. But if I need too much training, it might be too much trouble. Perhaps I could swim in the largest lakes on each
30 continent; that wouldn't take too much training!

Love,

Nancy

(279 words)

Vocabulary notes

1. **continent** (noun) one of the main areas of land in the world, such as Africa, Asia or Europe
2. **diplomat** (noun) someone who is employed by a government to live in another country and make sure that their own country is listened to, its citizens are treated correctly, etc.
3. **improve** (verb) to become better, or to make something better
4. **misbehavior** (noun) when someone behaves badly
5. **ordinary** (adjective) not special, unusual or different from other things
6. **sail** (verb) to travel across water in a boat or ship
7. **temper** (noun) a tendency to become suddenly angry
8. **training** (noun) when someone is taught the skills they need to do something

Add new words to your personal dictionary on page 154.



Read and listen again to practice your pronunciation.



After you read

A. Answer these questions.

1. What did Ken Noguchi do before he was 24?
2. Why did Ken Noguchi travel a lot when he was young?
3. Who was Ken Noguchi's hero?
4. Why does Nancy want an adventure?
5. How might Nancy have an easy adventure?

Understand what you read

Homophones

Homophones are words that are pronounced the same way even if they differ in spelling, meaning or origin, such as *pair* and *pear*. Some homophones are also spelled alike, as in *bear* (the animal) and *bear* (to carry).

Homophones are troublesome in English because they can create confusion in meaning when they are spoken or written. The most important thing to do when dealing with homophones is to look for the context in which they are placed.

Homophones can help you learn pronunciation. A word such as *corps*, for example, is a homophone for *core*. Knowing how to pronounce one word can help you pronounce another.

Here are four tips for working with homophones:

- Some *t* sounds are the same as some *-ed* sounds: *passed/past*.
- Contractions are sometimes used to make homophones: *lets/let's*.
- Some homophones also have similar *-s* endings: *lay/lei*; *lays/leis*.
- Homophones differ with pronunciation differences in regional dialects.

For example, the word *clerk* in American English rhymes with *jerk*. But in British English, *clerk* rhymes with *park*.

Language note

Another word for *homophone* is *homonym*.

Computer note

Unlike a paper dictionary, computer spelling checkers will sometimes show you the homophones for incorrect words: **fone/phone*.

B. Write words that sound like these words:

1. dear _____
2. ate _____
3. for _____
4. frieze _____
5. knight _____

C. Fill in the missing words. Use the correct form of the word.

- **intentional** (adjective) done deliberately in order to get a particular result
- **patiently** (adverb) able to wait calmly for a long time or to deal with difficult situations without becoming angry
- **pyramid** (noun) an ancient stone building with four walls shaped like triangles that slope to a point at the top
- **tragedy** (noun) an extremely sad event, in which something very bad happens
- **traveler** (noun) someone who is on a journey or who travels a lot

Not all adventures are _____ and many end in _____ . In 1990, an American woman's horse hurt its leg on a rock near the _____ of Egypt. That lucky accident helped archeologists find a new series of ancient buildings. A few years later, another young _____ went riding alone in the desert and she and her donkey fell into a large deep grave. They couldn't climb out and the woman _____ finished writing all her postcards then slowly died of thirst. She was found months later.

After falling in the hole, what do you think the second woman wished she had done?

What about you?

What would be an adventure you would like to have? Is there something you would like to do that no one has ever done before?

Lesson Two

Listen



Read about it

- Why is travel a great adventure?
- How can volunteering be an adventure?

What's Left to Do?

There are many adventures in the world, and not all of them involve climbing mountains. If you are young, mostly you just need to want to do something remarkable. You also need the courage to try something different.

Travel has always been one of the great adventures. This does not mean getting on a bus with a herd of other tourists and being led by someone waving a flag and shouting through a megaphone.

Instead, to have a real adventure, set out by yourself or with a friend to really explore. This way, you have to struggle to understand everything about a new place, including the language and customs. A real adventure is to hike or bike, following an old path. For example, you could



Traveling down China's Grand Canal

Reading strategy

The question in this article is general and not completely answered in the text. Such questions are meant for you to complete by adding your own ideas.

Language note

Prepositions vary, depending on what you are doing. You hike *up* a mountain, *along* a road and *across* a field.

30 trace the route of China's Grand
Canal that once went from
Beijing to Hangzhou. Or you
could try to find the Fifty-three
35 Stages of the *Tokaido*, the ancient
coastal road connecting the
Japanese cities of Kyoto and Edo
(modern-day Tokyo).

40 One way to travel for a longer
time and get more involved in
another country is to volunteer.
Volunteering, especially in poorer
countries, can include building
homes, helping with medical care
and teaching. Other volunteer
45 programs let you dig for dinosaur
bones or lost tombs or even cities.

50 Not every adventure means you
have to leave your home. It can
be an adventure just to explore
new ideas. Cambridge University
55 professor Stephen Hawking is
someone who will never climb
mountains. He has a disease that
affects his muscle control. He
uses a wheelchair and speaks
60 using a computer. Hawking's
adventures are in what he thinks.

“My goal is simple,” he says. “It
is complete understanding of the
universe, why it is as it is and why
65 it exists at all.” Now, that's an
adventure!

(300 words)

Vocabulary notes

1. **affect** (verb) to cause a change in someone or something, or to change the situation they are in
2. **canal** (noun) a long narrow area of water made for ships or boats to travel along
3. **coastal** (adjective) the land next to the sea
4. **goal** (noun) something that you hope to achieve in the future
5. **hike** (verb) to take a long walk in the countryside or mountains
6. **megaphone** (noun) a thing shaped like a big cone, that you speak through to make your voice louder
7. **tomb** (noun) a grave, especially a large one
8. **universe** (noun) all the stars and planets and all of space



Read and listen again to practice your pronunciation.

Listen



After you read

A. Summarize the main idea in one sentence.

Richard Burton (1821–1890) was an English explorer, linguist, author and soldier who traveled to Cairo, Suez and the holy cities of Medina and Mecca, disguised as an Arab. He spoke dozens of languages and translated now-famous books into English including *The Tales of the Arabian Nights*. While searching in Africa for the source of the Nile he was attacked and had his face scarred by a spear. He also introduced the words *pajamas* and *safari* into English.

Language note

A person like Richard Burton, who masters many different skills, is often called a *Renaissance Man* or a *Renaissance Woman*.

B. Vocabulary check: Fill in the missing letters to find the secret word.

	t	e	<input type="text"/>	p	e	r	
	h	i	k	<input type="text"/>			
			<input type="text"/>	o	a	l	
o	r	d	i	n	<input type="text"/>	r	y
	d	i	<input type="text"/>	l	o	m	a
	u	n	<input type="text"/>	a	p	p	i
		c	<input type="text"/>	a	s	t	a
	c	a	<input type="text"/>	a	l		
u	n	i	v	e	r	s	<input type="text"/>

Exam strategy

Work on a question until you get stuck. Think about it for a minute or two, and if nothing comes to you, move on and return later.

C. Choose the best answer.

1. Climbing mountains is ____ .
 - a. healthy and safe
 - b. not the only adventure
 - c. the best exercise
 - d. the only adventure
2. The phrase **herd of tourists** refers to ____ .
 - a. buses
 - b. people who travel on buses
 - c. groups of travelers
 - d. people who hold flags
3. Struggling to learn about a new place ____ .
 - a. is not worth the trouble
 - b. happens to every tourist
 - c. means you forgot your guide book
 - d. is a kind of adventure
4. Hiking and biking ____ .
 - a. are good ways to see a country
 - b. should not be done at the same time
 - c. are important to volunteering
 - d. are uncommon in poorer countries
5. Volunteers can help others by ____ .
 - a. living in people's homes
 - b. paying for medical care
 - c. teaching
 - d. hiking and biking
6. You might find a dinosaur if you ____ .
 - a. build a home
 - b. have simple goals
 - c. build bicycles
 - d. volunteer as a digger
7. Stephen Hawking doesn't ____ .
 - a. climb mountains
 - b. teach English
 - c. hike
 - d. all of the above
8. Hawking's "simple goal" ____ .
 - a. involves a megaphone and a computer
 - b. is not really so simple
 - c. is a trip in his wheelchair
 - d. is not in the universe



Debate

Take one side, add your own ideas and debate in pairs or groups.

For: People need adventures.

Points:

- Life can be boring without some excitement from time to time.
- At the end of your life, you won't wish you'd spent more time in the office.
- Adventures are the spice of life.
- _____
- _____
- _____

Against: Adventures are for story books.

Points:

- People's expectations are too high.
- Adventures only sound great after they're over.
- Not everyone can have adventures; someone has to do the work.
- _____
- _____
- _____

Debate strategy

When you debate, always try to sound like you're winning. Your confidence will help you win.

Say:

- "I'm very confident that you will agree with"



Amelia Earhart

More ideas to debate

"Courage is the price that Life exacts for granting peace."

Amelia Earhart (1897–1937) American pilot

"Courage is the ladder on which all the other virtues mount."

Clare Booth Luce (1903–1987) American writer

"Courage is doing what you're afraid to do. There can be no courage unless you're scared."

Eddie Rickenbacker (1890–1973) American fighter pilot

"Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear—not absence of fear."

Mark Twain (1835–1910) American writer

"Keep your fears to yourself, but share your courage with others."

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850–1894) English writer

"Fortune favors the brave."

Virgil (70 BC–19 BC) Roman Writer

Learn more

What opportunities are there for you to volunteer? Find brochures or websites that discuss volunteering and report them to your class.

**Look online**

Check out the website at www.read-and-think.com for extra learning resources.

Add new words to your personal dictionary on page 154.