

Lesson 5

1. What is it that attracts men and women to risk their lives climbing Everest? The _____ of the mountain is hard to explain to nonclimbers.
2. Perhaps George Mallory thought it foolish for someone to ask him why he wanted to climb Everest. That might explain his _____ reply, "Because it's there."
3. Mallory made several unsuccessful attempts to climb Everest. The _____ was not just to reach the top, but to be the first to do so.
4. Mallory's final climb up Everest took place in 1924 and ended with his death. Several _____ attempts had also ended in failure.
5. Thousands of people have tried to climb Everest. The mountain's extreme weather _____ the attempt by five out of six climbers.
6. Nervous people would not enjoy mountain climbing. Looking down a thousand-foot _____ mountain face while dangling from a rope can be especially scary.
7. The height of Everest has been carefully measured. Its _____ is twenty-nine thousand and thirty-five feet above sea level.
8. There are several ways to climb Everest. Most climbers take the _____ up the south side of the mountain.
9. Climbers must train hard before attempting to climb Everest. To try to make it to the top while in poor physical condition would be _____.
10. The weather on the higher parts of the mountain changes with very little warning. _____ can turn to despair when bad weather suddenly strikes.
11. A mass of ice, snow, and rocks can become dislodged near the peak. The _____ gathers speed as it roars down the mountain.
12. Climbers must seek shelter from strong winds and falling snow. A _____ on Mount Everest can last for hours or even days.
13. Climbers make their way very carefully up steep slopes. As they climb up, they look for _____ to use as hand- or footholds.
14. Most climbers carry sturdy but lightweight tents. Having a tent makes having to rely on _____ shelters unnecessary.
15. Most climbers of tall mountains admit to being afraid at times. They say that one of the benefits of climbing is learning to _____ fear.