

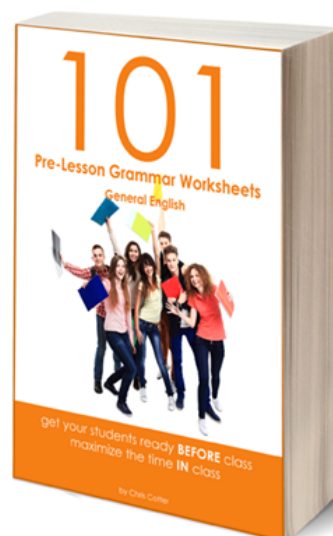
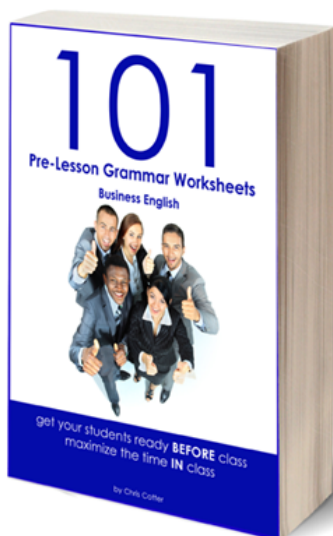
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the ARTICLE (for teachers)

The World's Highest Junkyard

Mt. Everest is the world's tallest peak at 29,029 feet (9,848 meters), and no one had successfully climbed to the summit until 1953. At that time, the mountain was an untouched area of unique plants and animals.

Unfortunately, that is no longer true, and the mountain has been described as a trash heap.

Despite the dangers and risk of death, hundreds of sport enthusiasts make an attempt on the mountain each year. The hikers hire Sherpas too, and this means there is a lot of traffic up and down the mountain. As a result, many items are tossed aside, such as oxygen canisters, sleeping bag parts, broken tents, and food wrappers. And of course, there is also human excrement too, which contaminates drinking water elsewhere.

There has been a concerted clean-up effort in recent years. For example, environmentalists have conducted fund-raising campaigns to remove the trash. The Indian Army has also climbed the mountain to remove the trash; it's most recent expedition likely removed more than 8,000 pounds (4,000 kilograms). Teams of Sherpas have hiked into the dead zone, which is an area above 26,247 feet (8,000 meters). Oxygen is very thin there, yet they managed to haul off 4,000 pounds of garbage. And perhaps the idea with the greatest impact is a new law which requires each hiker to bring down eighteen pounds of garbage. Failure to do so results in a permanent ban from all future attempts to climb the mountain.

However, even with recent efforts, the amount of garbage continues to increase. Mt. Everest has been called "the world's highest junkyard." Perhaps the days of a pristine wonder of the world are long gone.

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in red typeface are the answers.

the Article (for students)

The World's Highest Junkyard

Mt. Everest is the world's tallest peak at 29,029 feet (9,848 meters), a) _____
_____. At that time, the mountain was an untouched area of unique plants and animals.
Unfortunately, that is no longer true, and the mountain has been described as a trash heap.

Despite the dangers and risk of death, hundreds of sport enthusiasts make an attempt on the mountain each year. b) _____. As a result, many items are tossed aside, such as oxygen canisters, sleeping bag parts, broken tents, and food wrappers. And of course, there is also human excrement too, which contaminates drinking water elsewhere.

There has been a concerted clean-up effort in recent years. For example, c) _____
_____. The Indian Army has also climbed the mountain to remove the trash; it's most recent expedition likely removed more than 8,000 pounds (4,000 kilograms). Teams of Sherpas have hiked into the dead zone, which is an area above 26,247 feet (8,000 meters). Oxygen is very thin there, yet they managed to haul off 4,000 pounds of garbage. And perhaps the idea with the greatest impact is a new law which requires each hiker to bring down eighteen pounds of garbage. d) _____
_____.

e) _____. Mt. Everest has been called "the world's highest junkyard." Perhaps the days of a pristine wonder of the world are long gone.

Notes:

The World's Highest Junkyard

Upper-Intermediate - Listening

STEP ONE

Title: Speculate and/or discuss the contents of today's article from its title: "The World's Highest Junkyard."

STEP TWO

Questions: Read as much of the article as you can in two minutes. Guess the answers to the questions below, then listen to your teacher read the article. Try to confirm your answers.

a.	Since the 1950s, the flora and fauna of Mt. Everest have been untouched.	T / F
b.	There are many obstacles, including the amount of trash on the mountain.	T / F
c.	Environmentalists teamed up with the Indian Army to clean the mountain.	T / F
d.	There is a new law which, if people ignore, could get someone banned.	T / F
e.	The article concludes that Mt. Everest will definitely not be a pristine area again.	T / F

STEP THREE

Fill in the Blanks: Listen to your teacher read the article again. Fill in the blanks with the missing words.

STEP FOUR

Questions: Answer the questions to check comprehension.

a.	How does the article describe Mt. Everest before the early 1950s?
b.	What are some of the items mentioned in the article that get left behind?
c.	What has the Indian Army done to clean up the mountain?
d.	What have Sherpas done to clean up the mountain?
e.	What is the new law which has recently been passed?

STEP FIVE

Discuss: Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

a.	What was your general impression after reading this article?
b.	Do you think this is a serious problem? Why / not?
c.	Have you ever heard of ecotourism? Please check your dictionary and discuss the meaning.
d.	Traveling to exotic destinations is becoming more common. What negatives are there? Why?