

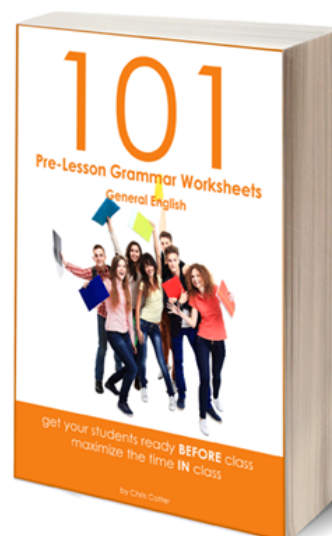
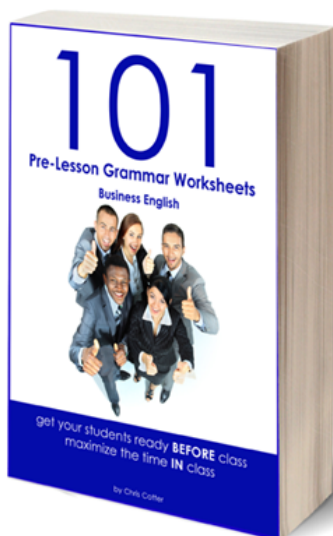
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the ARTICLE (for teachers)

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.

STUDENT HANDOUT (fill in the blank)

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

canisters	concerted	unique	pristine	expedition
haul	described	impact	results	contaminates
traffic	enthusiasts	amount	conducted	ban

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 (a. _____) plants and animals. Unfortunately, that is no longer true, and the mountain has been (b. _____) as a trash heap.

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

There has been a (g. _____) clean-up effort in recent years. For example, environmentalists have (h. _____) fund-raising campaigns to remove the trash. The Indian Army has also climbed the mountain to remove the trash; it's most recent (i. _____) 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 (j. _____) off 4,000 pounds of garbage. And perhaps the idea with the greatest (k. _____) is a new law which requires each hiker to bring down eighteen pounds of garbage. Failure to do so (l. _____) in a permanent (m. _____) from all future attempts to climb the mountain.

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

The World's Highest Junkyard

Upper-Intermediate - Vocabulary

STEP ONE

Brainstorm: Brainstorm with a partner(s) words and ideas associated with "junkyard" for 2 minutes. Spend another 5 minutes or less discussing the words and ideas together.

STEP TWO

Vocabulary match: Individually or in pairs/groups, match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B. Use a dictionary for any words you don't know, but check your English-English dictionary.

a.	unique	q.	participant
b.	enthusiast	r.	carry out
c.	canister	s.	restriction
d.	contaminate	t.	one of a kind
e.	concerted	u.	effect
f.	conduct	v.	clean
g.	haul	w.	container
h.	impact	x.	coordinated
i.	ban	y.	carry
j.	pristine	z.	make dirty

STEP THREE

Fill in the Blanks: Fill in the blank with the correct word.

	ban	conducted	contaminates	pristine	enthusiasts
	canisters	unique	impact	concerted	haul
a.	The mountain was an untouched area of () plants and animals.				
b.	Hundreds of sport () make an attempt on the mountain each year.				
c.	Many items are tossed aside, such as oxygen () and sleeping bag parts.				
d.	There is also human excrement too, which () drinking water elsewhere.				
e.	There has been a () clean-up effort in recent years.				
f.	Environmentalists have () fund-raising campaigns to remove the trash.				
g.	Sherpas managed to () off 4,000 pounds of garbage.				
h.	Perhaps the idea with the greatest () is a new law.				
i.	Failure to do so results in a permanent () from all future attempts to climb the mountain.				
j.	Perhaps the days of a () wonder of the world are long gone.				

The World's Highest Junkyard

Upper-Intermediate - Vocabulary

STEP FOUR

The Article: 1) Read the article, but don't worry about the missing words. 2) Fill in the blanks with today's vocabulary, followed by all the other words. 3) Read the article again, and circle any unknown words/phrases. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the words or phrases your circled. 4) Answer the questions to check your 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: Write down five vocabulary words from today's article that you want to use.

a.	
b.	
c.	
d.	
e.	

Now talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Every time you use a vocabulary word, place a check next to it. Try to use today's vocabulary as much as possible.

a.	What was your general impression after reading this article?
b.	Do you think this is a serious problem? Why / not?
c.	Traveling to exotic destinations is becoming more common. What negatives are there? Why?
d.	How do you feel about the environment and global warming? Please explain.

Score yourself:

10 or more times: Fantastic! Be sure to review the words at home.

6-9 times: Pretty good! You're on your way to acquiring today's vocabulary. Try writing your own sentences at home for additional practice.

5 or less times: Try harder next time! To acquire new vocabulary, you need to use the new words as much as possible.