



Worksheet 1. Reading: *Climbing Mount Everest*

Edmund Hillary was the first person to climb Mount Everest, in 1953. These questions and answers are similar to those from actual interviews with Edmund Hillary. Read the interview and answer the questions on the next page.

Climbing Mount Everest

INTERVIEWER: How did you feel when you got to the top of Mount Everest?

HILLARY: Well, somewhat surprised, but deeply **satisfied**, of course. We were **literally** on top of the world!

INTERVIEWER: What did the world look like from up there at the **summit**?

HILLARY: We could see a vast **distance** -- 100 miles -- in every **direction**. We saw **mountains**, **glaciers**, and high **plateaus**.

INTERVIEWER: How long did it take you to climb Mt. Everest?

HILLARY: It took seven weeks to go from base camp to the top, but only three days coming down.

INTERVIEWER: Why did you want to climb Mount Everest?

HILLARY: Because it was there!

INTERVIEWER: Had you always wanted to climb Mount Everest?

HILLARY: I had always dreamed about **adventure**. As a boy. I read **tons** of adventure stories. But I didn't see a mountain until I was 16 years old!

INTERVIEWER: Sixteen! So ... when did you start climbing?

HILLARY: When I was 20. The first mountain I climbed was Mount Cook, in New Zealand. And after that, I wanted to climb the highest mountain in the world ... you know, I tried once before, three years ago ..., but that **expedition** did not **succeed**.

INTERVIEWER: Not like this expedition! A spectacular **success**. Now, how difficult was your climb physically? For example, what about food? Did you eat plants from the mountain? How did you eat? How did you sleep?

HILLARY: We carried all our own food. But when you are high on the mountain, you are not hungry at all, and you have to force yourself to eat. Most of our **energy** came from very sweet drinks — mostly hot weak tea with lots of sugar. And we didn't sleep much. It's very difficult to sleep at high **altitudes**.

INTERVIEWER: How did you prepare for this expedition?

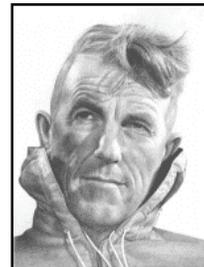
HILLARY: Well, first, by keeping fit. I'm a beekeeper -- I raise bees, so I have had to make the time to keep fit. I hike and climb and work out.



Worksheet 1, page 2

Complete the sentences. Put a check in front of the words or phrases that are correct according to the passage. More than one completion may be correct.

1. This interview is about _____.
 - climbing mountains
 - Sir Edward Hillary
 - the food that grows on mountains
2. When he reached the top of the mountain, Hillary felt _____.
 - extremely tired
 - very pleased
 - quite surprised
3. From the summit, Hillary saw _____.
 - the ocean
 - her mountains
 - glaciers
4. The climb to the top of the mountain took _____.
 - about 100 days
 - about 50 days
 - about three days
5. Edmund Hillary _____.
 - was born in an area with lots of mountains
 - first climbed a mountain at age 16
 - first climbed a mountain at age 20
6. Edmund Hillary _____.
 - had succeeded in climbing Mount Everest once before
 - had failed in climbing Mount Everest once before
 - has climbed other mountains
7. While the expedition was climbing Mount Everest, they _____.
 - were always very hungry
 - didn't sleep very much
 - drank a lot of tea
8. Edmund Hillary _____.
 - keeps fit
 - is an experienced mountain climber
 - raises bees as his work



(Photo from Wikipedia. Photographer: John Waterson)