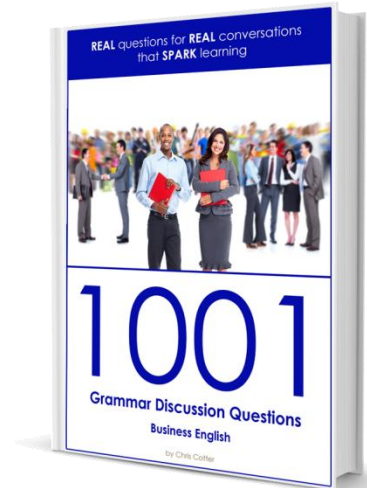
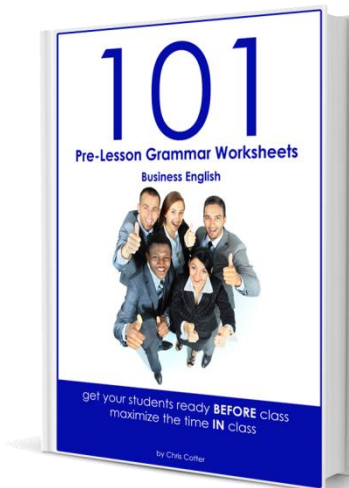


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## the ARTICLE (for teachers)

### The World's Highest Junkyard

The first recorded climb of Mt. Everest, the world's tallest peak at 29,029 feet (8,848 meters), was only in 1953. At that time, the mountain was an untouched area of unique flora and fauna. No longer. In fact, it has been described as a trash heap.

Despite inordinate obstacles that pose the danger of death, hundreds of sport enthusiasts make an attempt on the mountain each year. With them come Sherpas, which further add to the number of climbers. And with all the traffic, there are oxygen canisters, sleeping bag parts, broken tents, and food wrappers, just to name a few of the more common items tossed aside. And of course, there is also a lot of human excrement too, which pollutes drinking water elsewhere.

Recent years have seen a concerted clean-up effort. For example, environmentalists have conducted fund-raising campaigns to remove the trash. The Indian Army has also climbed the mountain with the purpose of removing trash; its most recent expedition estimated the removal of more than 8,000 pounds (4,000 kilograms). Teams of Sherpas have hiked into the dead zone, an area above 26,247 feet (8,000 meters) where oxygen is very thin, and hauled off 4,000 pounds of garbage. And perhaps the idea with the greatest impact is a new law which has been enacted that requires each hiker to bring down eighteen pounds of garbage. Failure to do so results in a permanent ban from all future attempts to scale the mountain.

However, despite recent efforts, the amount of garbage continues to increase, with the result in Mt. Everest being 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.

hauled	enthusiasts	enacted	aside	inordinate
permanent	fauna	pristine	flora	purpose
canisters	heap	concerted	pollutes	scale

**The World's Highest Junkyard**

The first recorded climb of Mt. Everest, the world's tallest peak at 29,029 feet (8,848 meters), was only in 1953. At that time, the mountain was an untouched area of unique (a. \_\_\_\_\_) and (b. \_\_\_\_\_). No longer. In fact, it has been described as a trash (c. \_\_\_\_\_).

Despite (d. \_\_\_\_\_) obstacles that pose the danger of death, hundreds of sport (e. \_\_\_\_\_) make an attempt on the mountain each year. With them come Sherpas, which further add to the number of climbers. And with all the traffic, there are oxygen (f. \_\_\_\_\_), sleeping bag parts, broken tents, and food wrappers, just to name a few of the more common items tossed (g. \_\_\_\_\_). And of course, there is also a lot of human excrement too, which (h. \_\_\_\_\_) drinking water elsewhere.

Recent years have seen a (i. \_\_\_\_\_) clean-up effort. For example, environmentalists have conducted fund-raising campaigns to remove the trash. The Indian Army has also climbed the mountain with the (j. \_\_\_\_\_) of removing trash; it's most recent expedition estimated the removal of more than 8,000 pounds (4,000 kilograms). Teams of Sherpas have hiked into the dead zone, an area above 26,247 feet (8,000 meters) where oxygen is very thin, and (k. \_\_\_\_\_) off 4,000 pounds of garbage. And perhaps the idea with the greatest impact is a new law which has been (l. \_\_\_\_\_) that requires each hiker to bring down eighteen pounds of garbage. Failure to do so results in a (m. \_\_\_\_\_) ban from all future attempts to (n. \_\_\_\_\_) the mountain.

However, despite recent efforts, the amount of garbage continues to increase, with the result in Mt. Everest being called "the world's highest junkyard." Perhaps the days of a (o. \_\_\_\_\_) wonder of the world are long gone.

# The World's Highest Junkyard

## Advanced - 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.	flora	q.	animals
b.	fauna	r.	clean
c.	inordinate	s.	container
d.	enthusiast	t.	carry
e.	canister	u.	climb
f.	concerted	v.	plants
g.	haul	w.	coordinated
h.	enact	x.	many
i.	scale	y.	participant
j.	pristine	z.	bring about

### STEP THREE

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

	flora	canisters	inordinate	pristine	enthusiasts
	concerted	scale	hailed	fauna	enacted
a.	The mountain was an untouched area of unique (            ).				
b.	The mountain was an untouched area of unique (            ).				
c.	There are (            ) obstacles that pose the danger of death.				
d.	Hundreds of sport (            ) make an attempt on the mountain each year.				
e.	There are oxygen (            ), sleeping bag parts, broken tents, and food wrappers				
f.	Recent years have seen a (            ) clean-up effort.				
g.	Teams of Sherpas have hiked into the dead zone and (            ) off 4,000 pounds of garbage.				
h.	A new law which has been (            ) requires each hiker to bring down eighteen pounds of garbage.				
i.	Failure to do so results in a permanent ban from all future attempts to (            ) the mountain.				
j.	Perhaps the days of a (            ) wonder of the world are long gone.				

## 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.