

Touching the Void

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Vocabulary: meanings of words from the story

1 survival 2 splint 3 cone 4 numb 5 harness 6 altitude 7 stable 8 clip 9 target
10 ledge 11 glacier 12 rescue 13 rumour 14 remote 15 boulder 16 courage

Writing: rewrite sentences

1	This is a story of courage.
2	Our only chance of survival (surviving) was to descend into the crevasse.
3	Because of the cold, my arms and legs were numb.
4	Nobody was going to rescue us.
5	The air was thin because of the (high) altitude.
6	I was on a (narrow) ledge on the side of the mountain.
7	The mass of snow and ice was not stable.
8	The glacier was covered with dangerous crevasses.
9	We chose a large boulder as our target and moved slowly towards it.
10	A hammer was tied to the harness on my back.

Vocabulary & Grammar: fill in the gaps

1 to 2 was 3 last 4 only 5 touched 6 I 7 minutes 8 of 9 glacier 10 the 11 surface
12 crawl 13 It 14 such 15 boulders 16 rucksack 17 and 18 my 19 mat 20 put 21 cut
22 yellow 23 support 24 around 25 straps 26 knee 27 leaned 28 on 29 axe 30 hop
31 got 32 a 33 but 34 tried 35 sometimes 36 fell 37 very 39 looked 40 white

Grammar: syntax

1	It was difficult to breathe because of the altitude.
2	My left leg was caught up in the rope and I kicked it free.
3	He reached into his pocket and brought out some pills.
4	There was no help in this lonely place, far from anywhere.
5	My seat was made of soft fine snow, like sugar.
6	Death would be like a kind of sleep without dreams.
7	I felt that there was something evil in the mountains around me.
8	Suddenly I fell forward and I knew that I could not go on.