

PASSAGE 3 : EXTREME SPORTS

- 1 Rock climbing, white-water rafting, and skydiving used to be considered dangerous sports, suitable only a few bold people—the unusually fit. Not so today, when it is common for families to take up such activities.
- 2 Why do people want to take part in dangerous activities? Some experts say it's the innate human desire to test the limits of their courage and physical abilities.
- 3 Sports psychologists Frank Farley of Temple University in Philadelphia calls people who do dangerous sports "Type T" people. They are thrill seekers and risk takers. Farley has been studying such people for 35 years. "They are the mountain climbers, the hang-gliders, the people who sail around the world in a ten-foot sailboat," says the sports psychologist.
- 4 What are the reasons behind the popularity of high-risk activities? Some say it's due to more wealth, the development of high-tech equipment, and even the absence of traditional risks such as war. Others argue that the self-centeredness and relative ease of modern life are part of the reason. In addition, thrill seekers want to display a youthful, rebellious attitude, whether they are 16 or 46.
- 5 "Much of that has to do with the affluence and boredom of American's upper and middle classes," wrote Andrew Exum in his college newspaper. "Many Americans today can simply afford to do things that used to be done only by professional adventurers."
- 6 "But being able to pay for a trip to the top of Everest—the going rate is about \$60,000 – doesn't explain why you would risk your life and actually go. Many Americans seem to need to take risks and be adventurous. If given the opportunity to take risks, we will."

Comprehension

A. Write the paragraph number next to each mentioned statement in the text.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Wealthy Americans are interested on affording dangerous adventures today .
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Thrill seekers look to show up a youthful and rebellious attitude.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Most humans come with inner desire to challenge and overcome limits.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Not only brave people, but also families take the adventure in extreme sports.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Risky adventures are highly expensive and even attractive for some people..
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Risk takers have been identified as Type T.

