Name: ..... Class: ..... Date: .....

The Inferno ski race

The Inferno is the oldest and **(0) most** celebrated of all amateur ski races. It is held every January, near Mürren in Switzerland. Anyone can take part, as **(13)**_____ as they belong to a ski racing club.

The Inferno was the invention of a British businessman called Henry Lunn, who came up **(14)**_____ the idea of the package holiday in the early 1900s and began taking groups of people to the Alps for winter sports. Henry's son, Arnold, grew very fond **(15)**_____ Mürren and he founded a ski club there in 1924. Four years **(16)**_____, seventeen of the club's members took part **(17)**_____ the first Inferno race, from the top of the 2,970 metre Schilthorn mountain to Mürren below.

In those early days, they **(18)**_____ to climb for six hours from the railway station in Mürren **(19)**_____ the start of the race. Today, racers use a cable car which **(20)**_____ about twenty minutes. In the first race, the winning time for the fourteen-kilometre race was one hour, twelve minutes. **(21)**_____ days it tends to be almost exactly an hour less. Although the skiers are very **(22)**_____ faster now, some things haven't changed. The course, **(23)**_____ is steep and has sharp bends, remains **(24)**_____ of the most demanding and frightening in the world.

LIVEWORKSHEETS