Reading 2

PREPARING TO READ

A **BUILD VOCABULARY** The words in **blue** are used in the reading passage. Read the sentences. Then write the correct word next to its definition.

- You need **strong** arms and legs to be a good climber.
- Some of the best rock climbers have a small body **size**.
- Most climbers use ropes. Climbing **without** ropes is dangerous.
- Bouldering is a type of climbing in which climbers don't need ropes. They can't really get into **trouble** because they are **close** to the ground.
- When climbing indoors, many routes are **beside** each other on the same wall. The routes are marked with different colors—black is often used for **difficult** routes. Climbers **follow** the color that matches their ability.
- When you climb indoors, there are usually instructors who **help** you. They explain things and make sure you are **ready** to climb.

1. _____: (n) problems
2. _____: (adj) not easy
3. _____: (n) how big or small something is
4. _____: (prep) not using or having
5. _____: (prep) next to
6. _____: (adj) near, not far
7. _____: (adj) having a lot of physical power
8. _____: (v) to move in the same direction as something in front of you
9. _____: (adj) prepared, able to do something
10. _____: (v) to make it easier for someone to do something

B **USE VOCABULARY** List three ideas for each category below. Then share your ideas with a partner.

1. sports in which you need to be **strong**

_____

2. countries that are **close** to your country

_____

3. animals that are about the **size** of a car

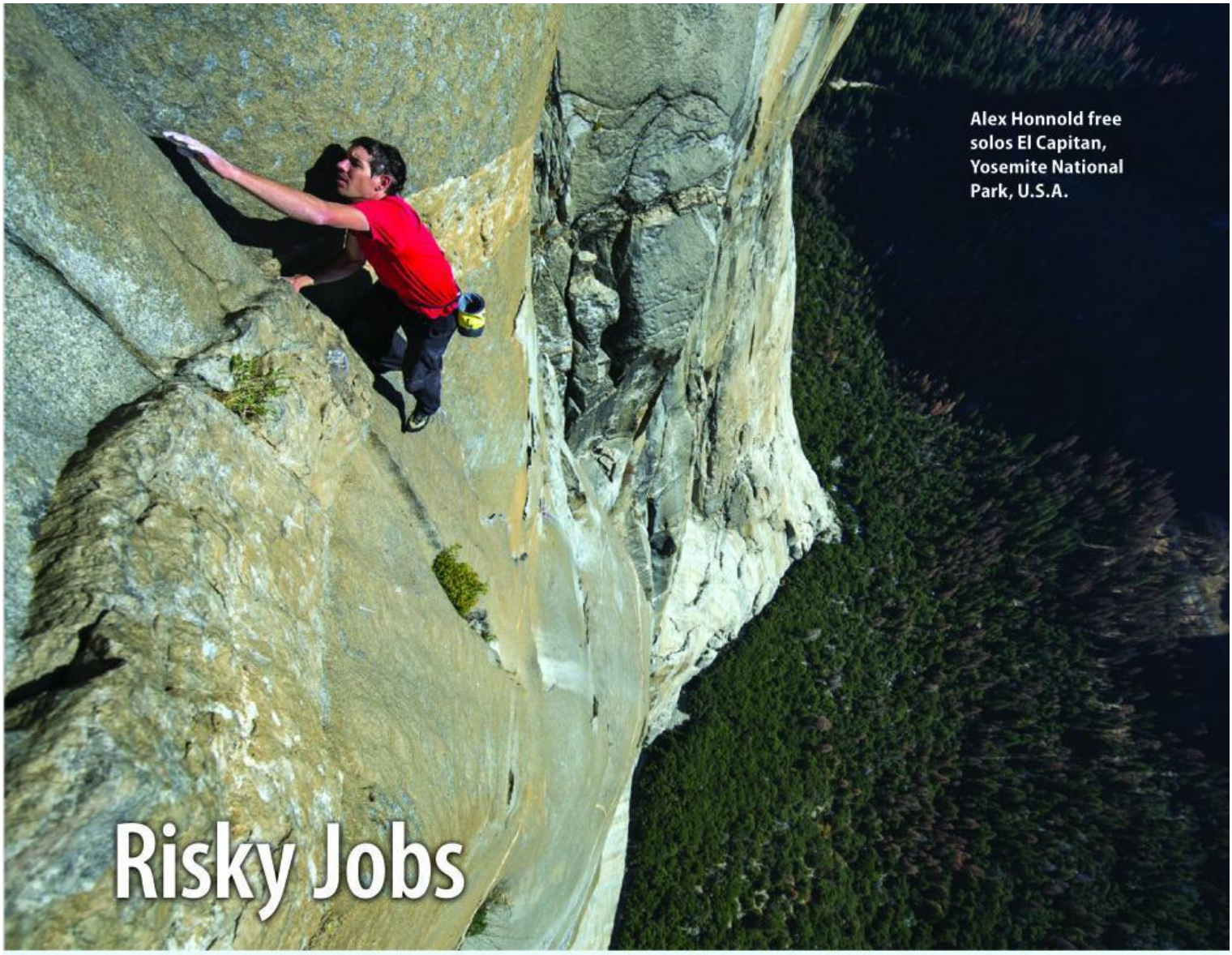
_____

Critical Thinking

C **PREDICT** Read the title and look at the photos on pages 91–92. What do the two people featured in the reading passage do? What is risky about these activities? Discuss with a partner.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS



Alex Honnold free solos El Capitan, Yosemite National Park, U.S.A.

Risky Jobs

A For some people, taking risks is part of their jobs. Here are two examples.

PROFESSIONAL ROCK CLIMBER

B **Alex Honnold** is a professional rock climber. Rock climbers are **strong** but they usually need ropes or someone to **help** them. But not Honnold. Honnold "free solos." Free soloing means climbing a rock alone and **without** ropes. In fact, Honnold is one of the best free solo climbers in the world.

C Honnold dreamed of being the first person to free solo El Capitan in Yosemite National Park, U.S.A. El Capitan is a one-kilometer-high rock. It looks like a very big wall—"it's like walking up glass," Honnold said. In November 2016, Honnold started climbing El Capitan. Honnold gripped the rock with his fingers. But he stopped because he wasn't **ready**. Seven months later, Honnold tried again. This time he did it—he climbed to the top of El Capitan. His dream came true.

D Today Honnold still free solos, but on less **difficult** rocks. He is so good at free soloing that he doesn't think that it is risky. Climbing these rocks, he says, "is just like going for a jog."[1]

[1] If you **go for a jog**, you go running for exercise.

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UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER

E **Brian Skerry** is an underwater photojournalist. As part of his job, Skerry goes diving with different sea animals. To get the best photos of these animals, Skerry takes a lot of time to get close—even though some people think it's risky.

F While diving in New Zealand, Skerry suddenly saw a right whale swimming beside him. It was the size of a bus. "Nobody is going to believe this," thought Skerry. "I've got to get this picture!" He swam fast so he didn't lose the whale, but he quickly became tired and had to stop. Surprisingly, the whale also stopped. It waited for Skerry and then began to follow him. "It was like swimming around with a friend," Skerry says.

G Why does Skerry take these risks? He hopes his photographs will make people think about life in the world's oceans. "The oceans are in real trouble from many environmental threats," he says. "As a journalist, the most important thing I can do is to bring awareness."



Brian Skerry took a photo of this southern right whale next to a diver.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

UNDERSTANDING THE READING

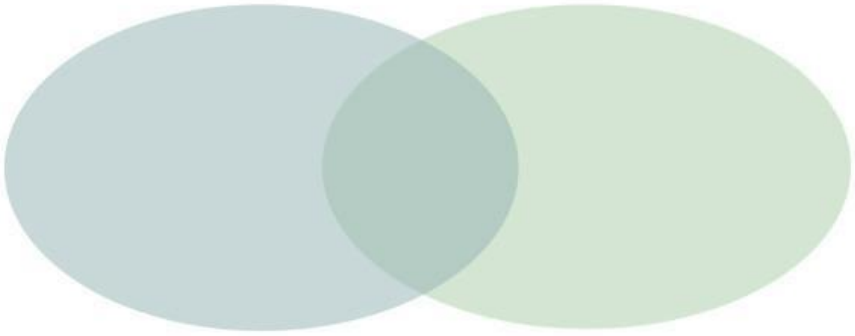
A **UNDERSTAND MAIN IDEAS OF PARAGRAPHS** What is the main idea of paragraph C in the reading passage?

Review this Reading Skill in Unit 3

a. El Capitan is a difficult rock to climb for most climbers.
b. Honnold's goal was to free solo El Capitan before anyone else.
c. Honnold took many months to climb El Capitan.

B **UNDERSTAND DETAILS** According to the reading passage, do the following items (a–f) apply to Alex Honnold, Brian Skerry, or both? Complete the Venn diagram.

a. takes part in risky activities
b. spends time with animals
c. set a goal of climbing El Capitan
d. tried but didn't succeed at first
e. achieved something amazing
f. works to help the environment



C **UNDERSTAND QUOTES** Answer the questions. Choose the correct options.

1. What does Honnold mean when he says, "It's like walking up glass"?
   a. It was hard to hold on to the wall. b. He could see a long way.
2. What is Skerry talking about when he says, "It was like swimming around with a friend"?
   a. the way right whales swim together b. the way a right whale followed him

D **GUESS MEANING FROM CONTEXT** Find and underline the following **bold** words in the reading passage. Use context to help you understand their meanings. Write the correct form of each word next to its definition. Then choose the correct part of speech—adj for *adjective*, n for *noun*, or v for *verb*. Check your answers in a dictionary.

professional (paragraph B) **gripped** (paragraph C) **awareness** (paragraph G)

1. _____: (**adj / n / v**) doing something as a paid job rather than as a hobby
2. _____: (**adj / n / v**) knowing that something is there
3. _____: (**adj / n / v**) to hold something tightly

E **SYNTHESIZE** Think about the risk-takers in this unit. Which person takes the biggest risks? Why? Complete the sentence and then share your ideas with a partner.

Critical Thinking

I think **Alessia Zecchini / Brian Skerry / Alex Honnold** takes the biggest risks because _____.

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