This is the challenge that _____ (face) British polar explorer Ben Saunders and his companion Tarka L'Herpiniere as they _____ (set off) in October 2013, from the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole and back, to complete the journey that the famous British explorer Captain Robert Falcon Scott _____ (attempt) a century earlier, but which unfortunately cost him his life. Captain Scott and his team _____ (walk) for six months before they reached the South Pole, only to discover that a Norwegian party, led by Roald Amundsen, _____ (get) there first. All Scott's team died while they _____ (return) home.

A hundred years later, it _____ (take) Saunders and L'Herpiniere 105 days to make the journey, and in doing so they _____ (break) the record for the longest human- powered polar journey in history. Their achievement is extraordinary when you consider that throughout the journey they _____ (drag) 200 kg of food and equipment and they _____ (use) skis.

Although he is best known for the South Pole expedition, Saunders _____ (already, break) a record ten years earlier when he _____ (become) the youngest person, at the age of twenty-three, to reach the North Pole alone and on foot.

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