MOUNTAIN CLIMBING

Read the text and choose the correct word.

One of the most difficult but (1) _____ of pastimes is mountain climbing. The modern climber must (2) _____ many different skills. Rock climbing (3) _____ a combination of gymnastic ability, imagination and observation, but perhaps the most necessary skill is being able to (4) _____ out how much weight a particular rock will (5)_____. Mountaineers climb in groups of three or four, each climber at a distance of approximately six meters from the next. Usually one person climbs while the other climbers (6) _____ hold of the rope. The most experienced climber goes first and (7)_____ the other climbers which way to go, making the rope secure so that it is (8)_____ for others to follow.

With much mountain climbing, snow skills (9) _____ a very important part. Ice axes are used for (10) _____ steps into the snow and for testing the ground. Climbers always tie themselves together so that, if the leader falls, he or she can be held by the others and (11) _____ back to safety. The number of dangers (12) _____ by climbers is almost endless. And the (13) _____ of oxygen at high altitudes makes life even more difficult for mountaineers.



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