8 Essentials

Reading

1 Read the article about an expedition to Antarctica. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1 The *Endurance* expedition was Ernest Shackleton's first time in Antarctica. T F

2 Shackleton and his crew had to live for months on the Antarctic ice. T F

3 We know many details of this time from the diaries the men kept. T F

4 Shackleton was a leader who understood what was essential on an expedition. T F

2 Read the article again. Write the items (a–f) in the correct category (1–3).

1 Essential qualities of a crew member	2 Essential personal items	3 Essential human needs
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

a communication
b being able to sing
c musical ability
d musical instruments
e spoons
f physical movement

3 Look at the examples of ellipsis in the article (1–5). Match the examples with the words (a–e) that have been left out of the text.

a he ____ d of possessions ____
b his ____ e of them ____
c men ____

The Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton tried to cross Antarctica three times at the beginning of the 20th century. His third expedition ended in disaster in 1915 when his ship, *Endurance*, became trapped in ice and eventually sank. Shackleton and his crew members were rescued by Chilean and British ships nearly five months later. None of the 28 expedition members died, and because of this Shackleton has become famous as a great leader.

Shackleton was an excellent leader because he knew what was important. We can see this firstly when he chose [1]_____ crew members, and secondly, in his decisions when *Endurance* sank. Shackleton believed that the essential qualities of an expedition member were connected to character, not to technical ability. He selected men that he liked, for example, or [2]_____ who could sing or play a musical instrument. He had already been on Antarctic trips and he knew that it was difficult to spend long, boring months away from normal life, friends, and family.

When *Endurance* started sinking, Shackleton's instructions made it possible for the men to live for months on the Antarctic ice. In addition to essential things like food, he told his crew to choose personal possessions to take with them when they left the ship. They could only take up to two pounds [3]_____ (about one kilogram) each, except for one man, Leonard Hussey. Shackleton told him to bring his banjo, saying music was essential "mental medicine." Some of the men wrote diaries as well, with one [4]_____ writing that they "had a merry evening, though it is difficult to find songs we've not heard many times before." Shackleton also kept a diary, and it gives us an idea of the things that were essential in day-to-day life in such an extreme situation. In one entry, he noted, "Our spoons are one of our indispensable possessions here." He said that losing your spoon would be almost as serious as losing your teeth.

Today, psychologists like Dr. Ron Roberts explain that people have basic needs for contact, communication, and physical movement. Shackleton understood this a hundred years ago. His leadership was the key to the men's survival. Dr. Ron Roberts says that he showed that a "happy ending" was possible and had a plan to achieve it. As *Endurance* sank under the ice, Shackleton turned to the crew and [5]_____ said, "The ship's gone, the stores are gone…so now we'll go home."

LIVEWORKSHEETS