

LISTENING SCRIPT

Exercise 3.

Announcer: You will hear an expert on survival describe a snow cave.

Lecturer: OK, so let's think about another kind of survival situation. Imagine you're on a mountain slope and suddenly you can see a snow storm coming. The only way to survive is to build a snow cave. Let's have a look at a diagram.

So here you can see that the entrance to the snow cave is towards the right of the diagram – and that a tunnel has been dug down. There's a reason for this, and that's to stop the wind blowing directly into your cave, which would make you extremely uncomfortable. A lot of things you can see in this diagram are just very sensible things to do. Like, for example, you really don't want to have any kind of accident or injury while you're digging your cave, you want to reduce that possibility. So you can see that on the roof of the cave – on the outside – more or less diagonally opposite the entrance to the cave on this diagram – you can see there's a round-looking object there. That could be a rock or a large stone or even just a large snowball – and you put it there to remind yourself where the roof is. This is so you don't walk on it and fall through when you're outside.

Um, before you shut yourself inside the cave for the night, do go out and collect some tree branches – branches from fir trees are the best type – as they're nice and soft. You can then place these *inside* the cave, on top of the flat shelf – the one towards the back of the cave and away from the entrance. Certainly don't put them at the bottom of the cave – the deepest part near the tunnel, I mean. You can store your dry clothes on the branches or lie on them – and it means you're not lying directly on top of the snow.

Exercise 4.

Announcer: You will hear an expert on survival describe a snow cave.

Lecturer: Now it's important to make your cave as strong as possible. So, once you've dug out the inside of the cave, it's a good idea to pile up as much snow as possible over the top of your cave – on the *outside*, I mean, so it's good and thick. And you can see from the diagram that the pile has formed into a pyramid shape. When the snow turns to ice and becomes really hard, your cave will be less likely to fall in.

If your cave is big and wide enough for you to have a small fire inside, of course you'll need to let the smoke out. And if you're inside for the whole night, you'll need to let some air in, too. To do this, you'll need to make some small holes. So see on the diagram how the roof inside the cave has a dome shape? The holes have been made near the top – on the right hand side – and they go all the

way through to the outside of the cave to that slope just above the entrance. They should be narrow, of course, and if you have something very thin, like a ski pole, use that to slowly make the holes.

Exercise 7.

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Lecturer: Now, obviously you need to keep your body temperature up, which means avoiding very cold air. As you probably know, cold air sinks, so see where the lowest part of the cave is – where it's a bit deeper. That's where the cold air is going to remain. It won't be able to escape into the rest of the cave. So of course, it's *not* where you're going to sleep.

There are other items you can use to keep as warm as possible. If you have something like a thick ski jacket or a backpack, these would be ideal for pushing into the narrow space towards the bottom of your tunnel. That's the oval shape you can see. This will help prevent the wind or any more snow from blowing into the cave. You might think it would be a better idea to wear the coat, but it's much better to use it to block the wind.

What can you do to make sure that the snow melts more slowly and there aren't so many drips falling on your head? You can see that on the left-hand side of the diagram, towards the back of the cave, that the wall is curved and there are no pieces of ice or snow that stick out. Try to build and keep the walls like this. Of course, it depends on the tools and equipment that you have with you, but yes, do try and keep them smooth.