

THE LANGUAGE COLLECTIVE

Upper intermediate: Final Exam.

READING

History remembers winners. Only rarely do we commemorate those who came second. The story of Robert Falcon Scott is one of those rare exceptions. In January 1912, Scott and four others reached what is possibly the most remote place on Earth: the South Pole. It was not Scott's first voyage to the Antarctic; he led a successful mapping expedition there between 1901 and 1904. In fact, it was the results of that expedition that enabled Ernest Shackleton to attempt but narrowly fail to reach the Pole in 1909. To his credit, Shackleton did succeed in returning all his men safely. Scott made it his mission in life to surpass Shackleton's achievement. Scott knew about a number of other expeditions being prepared at the same time as his. The most important one was in Norway, by the veteran explorer Roald Amundsen, but Scott insisted that he would not sacrifice their scientific goals to win a race to the Pole. He even wrote in his diary that if Amundsen got through first, he would deserve his luck.

Scott selected 65 men out of over 8,000 applicants for the expedition – including several members of his own mapping trip and Shackleton's aborted expedition.

Scott's team left Britain in June 1910, on board the sailing ship Terra Nova. Reaching the Pole was only one of the expedition's stated goals; Scott also wanted to carry out geological explorations of the regions called King Edward VII Land and Victoria Land. In fact, while completing this assignment in early February 1911, some of Scott's men ran into Amundsen's team camping in a small bay east of Scott's base. When Scott was told this, he decided that they should 'proceed exactly as though this had not happened'. In the Antarctic summer of 1911, Scott and his men set up a series of campsites with food and other provisions along the planned route to the Pole. The campsite nearest to their destination was the One Ton Depot.

In October 1911, a team of 16 left the base, and headed for the Pole. At the beginning, they moved more slowly than they had anticipated, but by late December they had made up for the lost time. They had been stopping and resting at the previously established campsites, and leaving behind some members of the team to start resupplying the camps for the return journey. When the small final team of five

explorers reached the South Pole on 17 January 1912, they thought they had won the race. A day later, they came across Amundsen's tent nearby, with a letter the Norwegian had kindly asked Scott to deliver to the King of Norway. The Norwegians only beat the British by four weeks, arriving at the Pole on 15 December 1911.

Scott's party set out on their journey home across the ice. One of them died shortly afterwards as a result of multiple hand and head injuries. The remaining survivors came up against extreme weather conditions. They were unable to walk more than eight kilometres a day, and their supplies were fast running out. In March, a fierce snowstorm stopped them completely, only 18 kilometres from One Ton Depot. Scott made the final note in his diary on 29 March 1912: 'I do not think we can hope for any better things now. We shall stick it out to the end, but we are getting weaker, of course, and the end cannot be far. It seems a pity but I do not think I can write more. R. Scott.'

A rescue expedition found their tent and the explorers' frozen bodies on 12 November 1912. A large memorial was erected near their base in January 1913, with a quotation from Tennyson's poem 'Ulysses': 'To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield'.



1 Read the article again. Are the following statements true (T), false (F), or not stated (NS)?

1 Scott didn't know about other planned expeditions to reach the South Pole. c___

2 All members of the 1909 Shackleton expedition survived the journey. c___

3 The One Ton Depot was the campsite closest to the expedition's main base. c___

4 Scott wanted to speak to Amundsen when they met at the Norwegian camp in the Antarctic. c___

5 The first thing the British team saw when they reached the Pole, was the Norwegian camp. c___

6 By the end of 1911, Scott's team was several weeks behind its plans. c___

7 A group of five explorers made it all the way to the Pole. c___

8 All the members of the final polar team died only 18 kilometres from One Ton Depot.
c___

9 The explorers were found nearly eight months after they died. c___

2 There are ten phrasal verbs in the text. Match five of them to their definitions. The definitions are in their dictionary form.

1 get started

2 become depleted

3 gain back

4 find unexpectedly

5 conduct



General revision

1.- Read the news story. Choose the correct answers or, if there is a gap, write one suitable word (an article, a preposition, an adverb, etc.).

TWO MISSING IN SNOWDONIA

Two walkers are reported to have gone missing close to (1) _____ summit of Snowdon, (2) _____ highest mountain in Wales. Bryan McCall, aged 21, and Karen Wilson, 19, failed to return by nightfall, leading to fears that they (3) *may be forced* / *may have been forced* to spend the night on the mountain. (4) _____ conditions when the pair set off yesterday morning were fairly good, by afternoon (5) _____ weather had got much worse. Thick cloud quickly covered the whole (6) _____ the area and there was such (7) _____ sharp drop in temperature that (8) _____ surface of local lakes began to freeze within (9) _____ few hours. Blizzards began in the evening, with a great deal (10) _____ snow falling above 500 metres.

Friends of (11) _____ two walkers, surprised not to have heard from (12) _____ of them, think their mobile phones (13) *might* / *can* have become unusable for (14) _____ reason. Karen's friend Janet Mitchell believes they (15) *called* / *would have called* her to say they were all right if their phones (16) *has been* / *had been*

working properly. Joe Hills, a friend of Bryan's, admits he is worried that they (17) *could have had / were able to* have an accident. However, he insists that they are experienced hill walkers who (18) *would / wouldn't* have found shelter if they (19) *had been forced / would be forced to* stay on (20) _____ mountain last night.

Mountain Rescue teams began looking for them early (21) _____ morning. The head of the team said, 'They (22) *must / can't* have had an easy time up on the mountain. Once the snow starts, there is very (23) _____ time to get down safely. And the cold affects (24) _____ walker very badly, no matter how experienced. Our biggest worry is that one or (25) _____ of them (26) *may / will* have slipped and fallen. Our job would be a lot easier if the weather (27) *will / would* clear.

And if only we (28) *would / could* get mobile phone contact, that would give us their position.' In the meantime, the walkers' friends continue to hope they will be found safe and (29) _____ and the rescue team are planning (30) _____ search soon.

2.- Make word pairs from the words in the box to match the meanings in brackets.

sooner	take it	now	but	give	downs	surely
less	then	take	tired	by	more	sick
slowly	large	later	ups	ifs		leave it

- 1 _____ and _____ (generally speaking)
- 2 _____ and _____ (compromise/be flexible)
- 3 _____ and _____ (fed up)
- 4 _____ and _____ (occasionally)
- 5 _____ and _____ (good and bad times)
- 6 _____ or _____ (excuses or arguments)
- 7 _____ but _____ (gradually)
- 8 _____ or _____ (eventually)
- 9 _____ or _____ (accept it or reject it)

10 _____ or _____ (approximately)

3.- Match the words of opposite meaning.

1	“	failure	a innocent
2	“	generous	b easy
3	“	guilty	c thick
4	“	dark (hair)	d sorrow
5	“	safe	e mean
6	“	hard (= difficult)	f praise
7	“	boring	g love
8	“	genuine	h admit
9	“	happiness	i tiny
10	“	criticize	j success
11	“	deny	k live (adj.)
12	“	get worse	l fair
13	“	loathe	m fake
14	“	huge	n dangerous
15	“	recorded	o exciting
16	“	bright (= clever)	p improve

4.-Cross out the incorrect form. Put a cross (X) at the end of the line if both forms are correct.

- 1 The hotel has *few* / *a few* problems.
- 2 Isla and Callum really love *each* / *every* other.
- 3 Caviar is the best food in *all the* / *the whole* world.
- 4 Hardly *no* / *any* people know about my career dreams.
- 5 *Both* / *Neither* of us listen to dance music.
- 6 *All* / *Every* my friends study English at school.
- 7 Can you sum up the main ideas in *few* / *a few* words?
- 8 *Several* / *A plenty* of people disagreed with our proposal.
- 9 We invited them to the conference, but *none* / *no* of them turned up.
- 10 They have *little* / *few* money but they're happy.
- 11 She's got experience, but not *enough* / *many*.
- 12 I haven't met Kevin, but I've heard *a great deal* / *a lot* about him.
- 13 Sean doesn't know *none* / *any* of us.
- 14 We all help *the* / *one* another.

5.- Choose the correct verb in brackets and use it in the correct form to complete the sentences.

- 1 Vikings were descended from Germanic tribes in Scandinavia. (descend / explore / extort)
- 2 They _____ their livestock in the fields.(settle / tend / trade)
- 3 With their longships, they _____ on long sea voyages. (explore / mount / embark)
- 4 Vikings _____ their goods for things like silk or glass. (raid / trade / tend)
- 5 In the 8th century, the Vikings started _____ monasteries around Europe. (extort / raid / carve)
- 6 Erik the Red _____ in a place which he called 'Greenland'. (embark / settle / explore)

7 Erik's son decided _____ an expedition further west and discovered America.
(sail / mount / embark)

Listening

Watch a video about research on the use of traditional medicine in Australia. For questions 1 to 7.

Aboriginal people in Australia ...

- a. used to use plants, seeds and fruits to make medicine
- b. use plants, seeds and fruits to make medicine
- c. don't use traditional medicine

The final goal of the research is ...

- a. to see if these remedies really work
- b. to market these products in Australian shops
- c. to sell these traditional remedies

Wadeye is ...

- a. a very large aboriginal community in Australia
- b. the largest aboriginal community in Australia
- c. A town where only aboriginal people live

Native plants are NOT used as...

- a. cosmetics
- b. soap
- c. tooth paste

According to researchers, ...

- a.it's too early to say if the research will be successful
- b.they are sure the research will be successful
- c.they think the research will be successful

The aboriginal women from Wadeye ...

- a.are hoping the research will be successful
- b.have opened a shop to sell their remedies
- c.want to open a shop to sell their remedies

The locals ...

- a.have shown interest in the remedies
- b.don't really believe in this kind of medicine
- c.don't know about this kind of remedies