

Unit 10 Academic reading

Adventure photographers

- 1** Work in groups. Read the job advert. Would you like to apply for this job? Why? / Why not?

WANTED – ADVENTURE PHOTOGRAPHERS HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES?

Do you enjoy the excitement of exploring new areas of the world? Are you adventurous? Do you love extreme sports? Are you driven to capture new and exciting photographs, even if you put yourself in danger? Then this could be the job for you!

- 2** Read what an adventure photographer says about her job. Does this make you want to do the job more or less? Why?

‘You need a lot of stamina to do this job – you need to be strong physically and mentally. It’s best if you have expert skills in a sport such as mountaineering, climbing, diving or caving and you need to be able to work in extreme weather conditions – ice, snow, rain, freezing water You might work with a sports team, but as the photographer you’re the last to bed and the first to get up. Your free time is spent downloading and organizing thousands of photos and videos. It can be physically and creatively exhausting.’

- 3** Read the article about female adventure photographers. Match each photo (which illustrates a main idea) with one of the paragraphs (A–E).



4 Read the article again. For questions 1–10, choose from the people in the article (A–E). The people may be chosen more than once.

Which person:

- 1 started their career because of a TV show?
- 2 says not everyone could become an adventure photographer?
- 3 loves spending time in a landscape different to where she grew up?
- 4 does not have a long time to complete her photo shoots?
- 5 says she has a way of thinking that most people don't have?
- 6 had another career in mind before becoming an adventure photographer?
- 7 has become more confident because of her profession?
- 8 uses an unusual piece of equipment?
- 9 is not put off her career despite the injuries?
- 10 started an adventure business with a partner?

5 Work in pairs. Look at sentences from sections A–E of the article. Match the beginnings of the sentences to the endings in each section, then discuss what the underlined phrases mean.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| A | 1 I love <u>coming up with</u> | a <u>for a living.</u> |
| | 2 I <u>do this</u> | b <u>people</u> who have truly enriched my life. |
| | 3 I've <u>crossed paths with</u> | c <u>an idea</u> for a photo shoot. |
| B | 4 She is <u>well known in</u> | d that dream. |
| | 5 Her <u>interest</u> was | e <u>her field.</u> |
| | 6 Exploring underwater 'space' has fulfilled | f <u>sparked by</u> a TV show. |
| C | 7 She is <u>no stranger</u> | g <u>to</u> adventure. |
| | 8 She is naturally <u>drawn</u> | h <u>of</u> a decade. |
| | 9 <u>Over the span</u> | i <u>towards</u> risk. |
| D | 10 To <u>stand out from</u> | j <u>her limits.</u> |
| | 11 She has spent the past five years <u>pushing</u> | k <u>the others</u> you need new ideas. |
| | 12 I <u>follow</u> my curiosity | l <u>to the ends of the earth.</u> |
| E | 13 She's <u>had her fair share</u> | m <u>the police.</u> |
| | 14 It <u>turned into</u> | n <u>of</u> uncomfortable situations. |
| | 15 She spent the time <u>dodging</u> | o <u>a nightmare.</u> |

SKILLS FOCUS: Identifying persuasive techniques

When a writer wants to persuade the reader of their point of view, they can use various techniques. For example:

- 1 using emphatic language, e.g. *very, extreme*
- 2 using repetition and lists to emphasize a point
- 3 using contrasts in sentences – acknowledging the opposite view, but emphasizing the opinion of the writer or speaker.

6 Look at these extracts from Parts A and B of the article. Match each extract a–j with one of the persuasive techniques (1–3) in the Skills focus box.

A

- a She spends most of her time on icy mountain tops, shooting athletes ice climbing, skiing, alpine climbing and adventuring.
- b What’s immediately noticeable about Percival, who grew up in Australia, is her drive and energy.
- c ... doing it in extreme conditions and with very tight deadlines.
- d ... the freezing temperatures, safety issues and task of managing gear in a vertical environment.
- e ‘I do this for a living, and although it can be hard, the experiences and the people I’ve crossed paths with have truly enriched my life.’

B

- f Extreme underwater explorer, cave diver, photographer and filmmaker Jill Heinerth is well known in her field.
- g She is one of the very few cave divers who uses a rebreather.
- h While immersed in this highly technical and dangerous environment, ...
- i Heinerth has captured underwater images in caves around the world, including Russia, the Bahamas and Antarctica.
- j ‘I may not have attained my goal of being an astronaut, but exploring underwater ‘space’ has certainly fulfilled that dream.’

7 Now look at Parts C, D and E of the article and identify more examples of each persuasive technique.

8 Evaluating success of an argument. Work in pairs. Discuss these questions.

- 1 Overall, do you think the writer is successful in inspiring young women to take up adventure photography? Why? / Why not?
- 2 Does the writer present a balanced view of the job? How?

9 Work in groups and discuss these questions.

- 1 In your country, which jobs are traditionally done by men and which by women?
- 2 Is this changing, and if so, how and why?
- 3 Do you think that there are jobs that shouldn’t be done by a particular gender? Why?

Pushing the limits ...

... five female adventure photographers talk to Sadie Quarrier about their jobs

A Angela Percival

Angela Percival lives in Whistler, Canada, and works as a staff photographer for an outdoor clothing company. She spends most of her time on icy mountain tops shooting athletes ice climbing, skiing, alpine climbing, and adventuring. What's immediately noticeable about Percival, who grew up in Australia, is her drive and energy. 'I love coming up with an idea for a photo shoot, then actually doing it in extreme conditions and with very tight deadlines,' Percival says. Ice climbing is the hardest for her to shoot because of the freezing temperatures, safety issues, and task of managing gear in a vertical environment. 'I do this for a living, and although it can be hard, the experiences and the people I've crossed paths with have truly enriched my life.'

B Jill Heinerth

Extreme underwater explorer, cave diver, photographer, and filmmaker Jill Heinerth is well known in her field. She is one of the very few cave divers who uses a rebreather – an apparatus that allows divers to stay underwater for as many as 20 hours by recycling exhaled breath. While immersed in this highly technical and dangerous environment, Heinerth has captured underwater images in caves around the world, including Russia, the Bahamas and Antarctica. Born in Canada, Heinerth initially wanted to be an astronaut. Her interest in marine science was sparked by watching episodes of *The undersea world of Jacques Cousteau*. 'I may not have attained my goal of being an astronaut, but exploring underwater 'space' has certainly fulfilled that dream.'

C Jody MacDonald

Canadian Jody MacDonald is no stranger to adventure and exploring the last untamed corners of the planet. She grew up in Saudi Arabia before sailing around the world twice over the span of a decade, providing year-round kite boarding, sailing and surfing expeditions through a company she co-founded. She says she is naturally drawn towards risk and activities that have unknown outcomes. 'I think about risk and failure differently than most people – I embrace them,' MacDonald says. 'It's a very solitary profession,' MacDonald admits. 'Personal relationships and community are sacrificed. If you want to have a boyfriend, marriage and kids, this gets to be a tricky job. It's for a certain personality.'

D Krystle Wright

Australian Krystle Wright is tough and fearless and 100 per cent committed to her projects. Wright claims she used to be shy, but photography has given her a way of going up to new people and talking. 'As a photographer, to stand out from the others, you need to be thinking of new ideas, new angles,' she says. She has spent the past five years living

in a van, chasing projects and pushing her limits. She almost lost her life in a paragliding accident in Pakistan when she collided with some big rocks. But broken legs, broken teeth and scars don't stop her. 'My biggest fear is regret,' Wright says. 'So I follow my curiosity to the ends of the earth to capture a special moment.'

E Emily Polar

From her base in California, Emily Polar has travelled to 28 countries and six continents over the past eight years of adventuring and shooting. Polar, who was raised in the relatively flat Midwest, says she's always been drawn to the mountains, and spends most of her time in the Himalayas, Andes, Sierras and Rockies. She admits she has had her 'fair share of uncomfortable situations.' On a climbing trip in Peru, what she thought would be an easy climb turned into a nightmare of illness and sleep deprivation. In Cuba, she arrived for a climbing trip only to discover that the sport had been outlawed the previous week – so she spent the time dodging the police. Despite the difficulties, Polar says the experiences have changed her world view and helped her explore and test her own limits, fears and perspectives.