# Step 1 - read through

Read the text through once: Write down your first impressions of what the article is about.

Read through the extract again. Discuss what you think the writer is saying with your partner. Write this in one sentence.

# Step 2 - annotate

Work with a partner and have a go at the following:

* Highlight any phrases or words that suggest the writer of the extract is an expert in climbing.
* Underline examples he gives of the descent being dangerous.
* In a different colour, highlight all the phrases and words that show he is in difficulty.
* In another colour, highlight phrases that create a sense of tension for the reader.

# Step 3 – analyse

Discuss with your partner what the writer’s reasons were for writing this first-hand account.

Now work together and find references and quotations that support the following statements:

1. The writer assesses each part of the descent carefully before undertaking it.
2. He is very experienced in his field of expertise.
3. He hints at the sense of the danger he is in before the boulder falls

on him.

1. The falling boulder totally surprised him.
2. He is in great pain.
3. He shows great determination to survive.

# Step 4 - evaluate

Look at the text again. Then answer the following questions:

* What is the effect of the writer using the present tense?
* Why does the writer spend half the text building up to the moment of the boulder falling?
* How does the use of ‘as I dangle’ (line33) create tension?
* How does the writer use verbs to demonstrate the violence of the accident?
* Does the writer want us to feel pity for him? Explain your views.