

I chose a small house on the edge of the city. It was an ideal place for me, because I wanted fresh mountain air, space, privacy, a place where one could feel the presence of ancient gods and the spirits of nature. The house was merely an empty shell, but I chose it because it was on the sunny side of the valley, high enough to have a good view over the town, with sufficient breeze to diminish the occasionally stupefying heat. It took me a good year to make the place inhabitable.

The first thing that I did was to dig out the well at the side of the house, which had caved in on itself and was full of mud and rocks. I was helped in this by a Frenchman named Antoine, a man of considerable culture who had chosen to live here because he was attached to the people, with whom he had arrived in the original immigration. We repaired the walls and the roof of the house, and painted the rooms completely white so that they became suddenly clean, bright, and spacious.

Antoine and I managed, at some danger to ourselves, to install electricity by connecting up a cable to the faltering system invented by a teacher. This man was Professor Luis, who had set up a row of windmills to generate power; this was perfectly adequate for lighting, but was somewhat feeble when high amperage was required, so that the electric cooker that I had flown in by helicopter turned out to be more use as a storage cupboard.

line 18 It often happens when setting up a house that one finds quite suddenly that there is an urgent need for some item overlooked during the last expedition. The track down from my house was a deeply pitted one that served as a watercourse each time that it rained, and although I have stabilised it since, it was to begin with only negotiable on foot or by mule, or by Antoine's ancient three-wheeled tractor. This tractor had been half-buried in the mud of the flood at Chiriguana, but Senor Vivo's father, who is in fact General Sosa, governor of Cesar, had it dug out and brought in slung under a vast helicopter gunship, at his son's request. It is commonly said in this country that General Sosa is the only member of the military hierarchy who ever does anything useful.

There was, at the far end of the town, a *tienda* that sold goods brought in by mule-train from Ipasueno, and so every few days I would find myself rattling and bumping my way to it on Antoine's formidable old tractor. This shop was owned by a middle-aged couple who left the running of it to their daughter, a girl of twenty or so years whose name was Ena, as I discovered by overhearing the father asking of her the price of a bottle of Ron Cana.

Ena was small and strongly built; usually she wore a plain, faded blue dress, and her feet were always bare. Sometimes I used to think that her head was very slightly too large for her, but she had an appealing and serene face framed by her long black hair. She reminded me forcibly of a Greek girl with whom I had once been in love, for she had the same smooth and soft olive skin, and big brown eyes beneath eyebrows almost heavy enough to meet in the middle. On her forearms were the traces of soft black downy hair, which to be frank, is something that has always driven me crazy, and her fingers were slim and elegant.

The best thing about her, however, was her elfin spirit; she had an air of quiet amusement, an innocent devilry, that gave her the aura of having existed from all eternity, and of being able to see the funny side of everything. I perceived that she had a streak of mischief in her, as was to be revealed when I discovered how it was that she had kept me for so long in ignorance.

1 What attracted the writer to the house?

- A where it was located
- B how big it was
- C the view it gave of the valley
- D the condition it was in

2 According to the writer, Antoine

- A had recently arrived.
- B liked to keep to himself.
- C was a foreigner.
- D painted for a living.

3 What impression does the writer give of the electricity supply?

- A It was too dangerous to use.
- B It didn't always work properly.
- C It only worked when it was windy.
- D It was a very reliable system.

4 The writer uses the phrase 'served as a watercourse' (line 18) to show that the path

- A had many deep holes.
- B was difficult to walk on.
- C was sometimes flooded.
- D needed to be repaired.

5 Why was General Sosa unlike other military officers?

- A He liked helping his relatives.
- B He was in charge of the area.
- C He managed to get things done.
- D He had his own private helicopter.

6 How did the writer find out what Ena's name was?

- A Her father told him when he asked.
- B Someone mentioned her name.
- C He heard a customer asking for her.
- D Antoine gave him the information.

7 What criticism of Ena does the writer make?

- A She never wore shoes.
- B She wasn't interested in clothes.
- C Her eyebrows were too thick.
- D Her head seemed to be too big.

8 What did the writer like best about Ena?

- A her sense of humour
- B her physical appearance
- C her innocent ignorance
- D her resemblance to someone

A Coward's Adventure

Even though I'm a writer for *Outdoor Adventures Magazine*, everyone at my office knows in actual fact I'm a bit wary of anything remotely resembling an "outdoor adventure." That's why my boss likes to give me these projects. He thinks I'm the perfect candidate because, like most people, I'm often afraid to try something new. However, upon my return from an assignment I have usually not only conquered any fears I originally had, but also become quite an enthusiast of the activity as well!

This month's hair-raising adventure – white-water rafting – was no exception. The minute my boss told me about it, I felt very nervous. **9** But now that I've completed the assignment, I'm happy to report that I found it extremely enjoyable.

In order to get some information about white-water rafting, I called Nigel Dossett, who runs Scotland's foremost white-water rafting centre in Perth. The first thing he told me was that not all rafting trips are the same. **10** It's important for the public to be aware of this before booking a trip, in order to determine how hard or easy a rafting course should be. The goal is to spend more time in the raft than in the water, so it's best to take it easy the first time out.

Upon my arrival at Nigel's Extreme Raft World Centre, I saw that there were several dozen people there for the day's rafting activities. **11** We

were then given a safety briefing about some of the dangers to watch out for, such as boulders, fallen trees, sharp underwater rocks, waves and anything else that could block a raft's forward movement.

We were put into groups of six, plus a guide, based on skill and level of experience. **12** I put on my wetsuit, life jacket and crash helmet and climbed aboard, hoping he was right. With the first few strokes of the paddle, I could feel excitement begin to replace my fear. The river caught us in a gentle flowing motion, rocking and pulling us smoothly towards the first rapid.

Suddenly our guide shouted "Forward paddle!" and everyone started paddling excitedly. We steered around boulders as huge waves crashed over us, soaking the entire boat. **13** It was remarkable how much team spirit had sprung up immediately between the members of my boat.

We eventually stopped for lunch at a lovely spot on the river under a huge oak tree. **14** It was satisfying to see that such an exciting and fun sport could be enjoyed by such a wide variety of people.

My trip was much better than I had expected, and the scenery, the accommodation, the rushing river and the thrill of the ride were all amazing. **15** I recommend it for anyone, from the fit to the couch potato, the young to the old, and even for cowards like yours truly!

A Nigel began by explaining the differences in the difficulty levels and asked us to be honest about our paddling experience.

B Without a doubt, white-water rafting is one of the most exciting outdoor adventures.

C Although we were drenched, everyone was laughing and yelling as we worked together to drive the raft forward.

D The thought of battling raging river rapids in a flimsy rubber boat was almost enough to make me call in sick.

E Chatting as we relaxed, I found that everyone's background was different, including a stockbroker and a housewife.

F It all depends on what each individual feels like doing on that particular day.

G I was in a medium difficulty group, and our guide assured us that the ride would be lots of fun without being too dangerous.

H He said that rapids are broken down into different classifications – anything from very calm to very dangerous.

ROLLS-ROYCE

The name Rolls-Royce has been associated with high-quality cars for (0) a century. The first Rolls-Royce was produced in 1905, as the result of the (1) efforts of Charles Stewart Rolls and Frederick Henry Royce.

Rolls, an upper-class Londoner who was (2) at Eton and Cambridge University, started a company in 1902 to sell motor-cars. Royce, an engineering genius, (3) from a working-class background. He began his apprenticeship in a railway workshop at the age of 14, but by the age of 21 he had (4) up his own engineering business. Royce designed several motor-cars, and his first experimental model (5) in 1903. (6) after that, Charles Rolls and Henry Royce met, (7) the Rolls-Royce manufacturing firm in 1904. Royce designed the motor-cars and Rolls sold them. Rolls, who had (8) himself a reputation as a keen racing motorist, also had a passion for flying. In 1910, at the age of only 33, he sadly (9) his death in a plane crash – in (10) , he was the first Englishman to die in this way. Royce, however, continued work on their shared dream, and (11) to develop his first aero-engine in 1915. The Rolls-Royce Merlin aero-engine later powered British fighter aeroplanes in World War II. On Royce's death in 1933, the famous Rolls-Royce monogram was changed from red to black as a (12) of respect for the great man.

- | | | | |
|---------------|------------|-------------|----------------|
| 1 A connected | B mixed | C combined | D collected |
| 2 A educated | B schooled | C taught | D trained |
| 3 A grew | B arrived | C came | D arose |
| 4 A put | B made | C set | D brought |
| 5 A appeared | B showed | C presented | D developed |
| 6 A Early | B Shortly | C Briefly | D Quickly |
| 7 A shaping | B forming | C building | D constructing |
| 8 A earned | B awarded | C deserved | D succeeded |
| 9 A got | B knew | C found | D met |
| 10 A spite | B case | C order | D fact |
| 11 A kept up | B went on | C got by | D saw through |
| 12 A note | B message | C signal | D sign |

Becoming a Top Athlete

To be (0) in a sport requires a number of things including ambition and (25) Without these qualities, it is very difficult to compete at a high level. Most of the famous sportspeople we know today began training during their (26) in order to reach their peak while still comparatively young.

Athletes should pay careful (27) to their diet, because (28) food is essential for maintaining a strong body which is less liable to suffer injury. Diet is also important because it must be adequate to support such (29) activity.

It is also necessary to have the (30) to succeed. Athletes will often encounter temporary (31) on their road to eventual success, and they must mentally prepare themselves so that this type of (32) doesn't have too strong a negative effect on their future (33) Even if a sufficiently talented athlete puts in the time and effort required, they will also need (34) , and perhaps a little luck, in order to succeed.

SUCCESS
DEDICATE

CHILD

ATTEND
NOURISH

ENERGY

DETERMINE
FAIL

COURAGE
PERFORM
PATIENT

35 Please don't touch the exhibits.

RATHER

I touch the exhibits.

36 It's a good thing you gave me a lift or I would have been late for my interview.

GIVEN

I would have been late for my interview me a lift.

37 Please do not drop litter in the park.

REQUESTED

You drop litter in the park.

38 He doesn't get on with his colleagues.

TERMS

He is not with his colleagues.

39 Light travels faster than sound.

TRAVEL

Sound as light.

40 He could not explain why he was always late to work.

ACCOUNT

He could not late to work.

41 Our boss wouldn't let us go home until we had done our work.

MADE

Our boss our work before we went home.

42 I had never been to a theme park before.

FIRST

It I had ever been to a theme park

472. She got a ... gift from her husband on her birthday.	PRINCE
473. Why does she look so ..., I wonder?	REPROACH
474. The court issued a ... for the landlord of the criminal.	SUMMON
475. Few people dispute Shakespeare's ... as a playwright.	SUPREME
476. He felt ... in his new job, so he left.	ADEQUATE
477. To leave the chalet in the dead of night would be sheer	MAD
478. He went to visit his parents weekly like a ... son.	DUTY
479. We all admired the ... thinking of the great inventor.	CREATE
480. The ... around a town were very important in the Middle Ages.	FORTIFY
481. Your foolish behaviour is ... for a woman of thirty-five.	MATURE
482. The two presidents made ... efforts to establish peace.	CREDIT
483. While digging in the garden, they found an ... jug.	EARTH
484. This is a chair with ... arms which makes it easy to handle.	MOVE
485. An old man was lying on the ... and people just passed by.	PAVE
486. Your knowledge of the subject is no more than	FRAGMENT
487. It is impossible for him to accept such things.	ABSOLUTE
488. Her low salary was a ... factor in her decision to change her job.	CONTRIBUTE
489. He asked me about the ... of the bank.	LOCAL
490. The ... of a relationship is ensured by both parts.	STABLE
491. He searched ... for a cigarette to hide his excitement.	FEVER
492. Is it possible to be certain of the ... of a child by medical means?	PATERNAL
493. He wants to specialize in ... like his father.	SURGEON
494. She is rather fat because she is so	ACTIVE
495. He will pay ... to his ex-wife until their children are of age.	MAINTAIN
496. Grandfather used to hire a ... to entertain us at Christmas.	MAGIC
497. I'll give you the money back next Friday which is the ... day.	PAY