

# An Extraordinary Woman



## 1. Read the story

Look at the pictures on these pages.  
What is the story about? Now read it.

**LHASA, TIBET** <sup>1</sup>Sabriye Tenberken, 33, is an extraordinary woman with a big dream. She runs a school for **blind** children in Tibet and plans to open many more around the world. <sup>2</sup>Sabriye is blind herself. Born in Germany, she lost her **sight** at age 13. <sup>3</sup>But she made a **decision** to live life fully. As a **teenager**, she learned to ride horses, ski\*, and go white-water rafting\*\*. Nothing stopped her. Nothing frightened her.

<sup>4</sup>At **college**, Sabriye studied the **history** of Tibet. Afterward, she packed her suitcase, took her white cane\*\*\*, and flew off to Tibet. <sup>5</sup>There she bought a horse. With a **guide**, she rode along mountain **cliffs** to **distant** villages, looking for blind children

for her school. <sup>6</sup>She found many who were **desperate** to study.

<sup>7</sup>She teaches her students that they can do anything. They recently went white-water rafting and will soon **attempt** to climb one of Tibet's high mountains. <sup>8</sup>Sabriye **believes** everyone has special **gifts**. Blind children, she says, will never be able to drive. "But they can read and write in the dark. And who can do that?"

\* ski: to move over snow on long thin pieces of plastic  
\*\* go white-water rafting: to take a boat on a fast river  
\*\*\* cane: a stick that is used to help people walk

## NEW WORDS

**blind** *adj*    **decision** *n*    **college** *n*    **guide** *n*    **distant** *adj*    **attempt** *v*    **gift** *n*  
**sight** *n*    **teenager** *n*    **history** *n*    **cliff** *n*    **desperate** *adj*    **believe** *v*

>> See Glossary on page 88. >>

## 2. Rate the story

How much did you like it? Mark an X.

Not at All

A Lot

1

2

3

4

5

### 3. Check your comprehension

Put the sentences in the correct order. Number them 1–6. The first one is done for you.

- \_\_\_ She learned to ride horses and ski as a teenager.
- \_\_\_ She rode her horse, looking for children for her school.
- \_\_\_ She studied the history of Tibet at college.
- 1 Sabriye became blind at 13.
- \_\_\_ She bought a horse.
- \_\_\_ She flew off to Tibet.

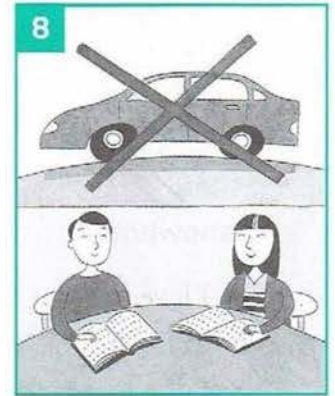
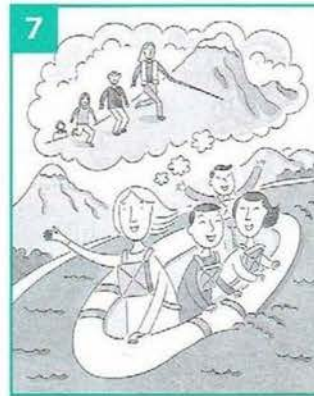
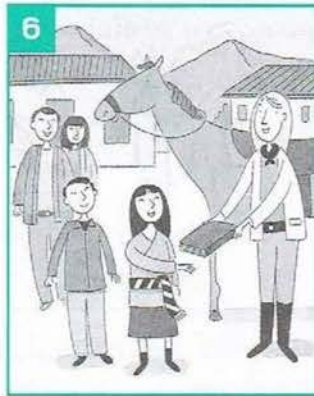
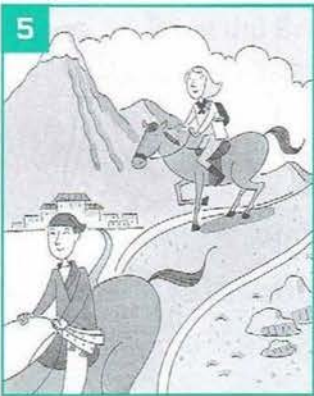
### 4. Check your vocabulary

Complete the sentences with the New Words.

- Sabriye lost her si\_\_\_ at age 13.
- In Tibet, she rode a horse along mountain \_\_\_ffs to find bl\_\_\_ children.
- She found children in dis\_\_\_ villages who were \_\_\_perate to study.
- Sabriye \_\_\_ieves that everyone has special \_\_\_ts.

### 5. Listen to the story track 4

Now listen to the story two or three times. Look at the pictures below as you listen.



### 6. Retell the story

Cover the story and look at the pictures above. Retell the story using the New Words.

## 7. Answer the questions

### About the story...

- What kind of teenager was Sabriye?
- Why did she go to Tibet?
- What does Sabriye tell her students?
- What do you think of her?

### About you...

- What is your dream for the future?
- What are your special gifts?
- What sports do you play?
- What difficult thing do you want to attempt in the future?

## 8. Learn word partnerships

Study the partnerships below. Complete the sentences so they are true for you.

DECISION		
make a decision	to do something	<b>Sabriye made a decision to live life fully.</b> <i>I made a decision to get a job.</i>
	about something	<i>I will have to make a decision about college.</i> <i>We made a decision about our future.</i>
an easy a difficult	decision	<i>I made an easy decision.</i> <i>It was a difficult decision.</i>

- Last year I made a decision to \_\_\_\_\_.
- When I get older, I will have to \_\_\_\_\_ a decision about \_\_\_\_\_.
- I \_\_\_\_\_ a/an \_\_\_\_\_ decision today about \_\_\_\_\_.

## 9. Learn word groups

Complete the sentences so they are true for you. Use words from the pictures.

### OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES



snowboard



skydive



hike



ride a horse



rock climb



water-ski

- I love to \_\_\_\_\_.
- In the future, I'd like to \_\_\_\_\_.
- I don't want to \_\_\_\_\_ because I'm afraid.

## 10. Take a dictation track 5

Use your own paper to write the dictation. Check your answers on page 86.

## 11. Complete the story

Use the words from the box to complete the story.

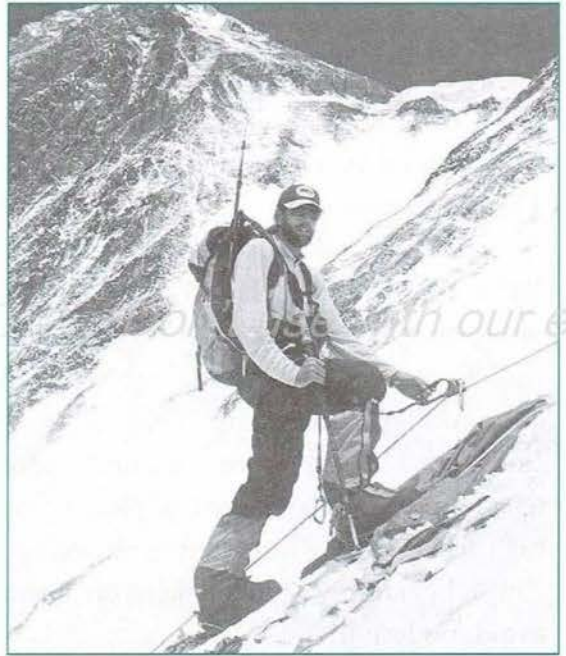
teenager    believe    blind    guide    distant    desperate    sight    skydive

# Climbing Everest Blind

NEPAL Erik Weißenmayer made history in 2001 when he became the first **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ person to climb to the top of Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world. How did he do it? Erik followed the sound of bells ringing on the clothes of other climbers.

Erik lost his **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ as a young **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_, and his world became dark. Soon afterward, Erik lost his mother in a car accident. He felt **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_. But when his father began to take him mountain climbing in **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_ parts of the world, Erik began to **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ in himself again. He became happy. He learned to climb by holding the shoulder of a **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_ as they walked together. Erik also learned to ski, **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_, and bike.

What did Erik “see” while he was on top of Everest? “Peace, success, and wide-open space,” he says. “Blindness takes things away, but it gives you other things, and those new things can be as good or even better.”



### Talk about the stories

How are the lives of Sabriye and Erik similar? How are they different?