

Name.....
Date.....

Task 4

Talking About Success and Failure

Part I: Initiation

A. Try to differentiate between success and Failure phrasal verbs in the speech of the chief executive of a company

The chief executive of a company is making a speech to the staff. Note the phrasal verbs connected with success and failure.

This year has been an eventful one. We've been able to **capitalise on**¹ the publicity we got in the new year with the launch of our new lines, and we've **come out** stronger than ever, despite strong competition. We've **succeeded in** reversing the downward trend we were suffering last year. What's more, we've managed to **win back** customers from the competition. We had been **losing out to**² international players, but now we can **pride ourselves on**³ being able to offer better quality products at lower prices. In the middle of the year, we faced a hostile takeover bid from *Diotechnics*. We fought hard against it and finally **won through**⁴, as I knew we would. That bid **fell through**⁵ and we are now stronger than ever. So I want to thank you all.

¹ use a situation in order to achieve something good for yourself

² being less successful than

³ be proud of

⁴ succeeded after trying hard to achieve something

⁵ failed to happen



B. Two students are talking on the phone about studying for Final Exams

Harry I don't think I'll **get through**¹ the end-of-term exam this time.

Libby Oh, really? Why?

Harry Well, I've been really busy with the drama club, that's the problem. I wish I could be one of those people who **sail through**² exams and still manage to **pack in**³ a huge amount in their spare time.

Libby Yes, me too. But never mind, you did your presentation the other day and you managed to **carry** that **off**⁴ quite well.

Harry I managed to fool everyone, you mean! I **got by**⁵ only because I found some useful stuff on the Internet the night before.

Libby Well, that's OK. That's what the Internet's for. As long as you didn't just copy it!



¹ pass

² easily pass

³ (informal) manage to do a lot of activities in a period of time

⁴ succeed in doing or achieving something difficult

⁵ (informal) had just enough or knew just enough of something to deal with a difficult situation

C. Other verbs connected with succeeding and failing

I couldn't really afford the time to go to a lecture on bees, but my curiosity **won out** and I went. [(informal) was stronger than other, competing emotions]

The general lack of enthusiasm **doomed** the plan **to** failure. [made it sure to fail]

The support of my friends and family helped to **pull me through** a very difficult time. [succeed in dealing with a difficult period of your life, or to help someone else to do this]

You have to learn to **rise above** negative criticism if you want to succeed. [not allow something bad that is happening or being done to you to upset you or to affect your behaviour]

Did you see the match on Saturday? We've **fallen behind** Liverpool by three points now. [failed to score as many points as another team or player in a competition]

Part II: Practice

Exercise 1

Rewrite each sentence using a phrasal verb based on the word in brackets in an appropriate form.

- 1 Some people were going to buy our flat, but at the last moment the sale failed to happen. (fall)
- 2 Steve is very proud of his organisational skills. (pride)
- 3 The company was able to take advantage of the unusually wet weather by promoting its inexpensive umbrellas. (capitalise)
- 4 The England team lost the trophy in 2014 but regained it the following year. (win)
- 5 It's been a difficult year for us, but we have emerged from it with renewed vigour. (come)
- 6 Leila managed to pass her driving test at her first attempt. (succeed)
- 7 Hassan was beaten by his brother in the finals of the tennis tournament. (lose)
- 8 They had a long battle in court to prove their innocence, but finally they succeeded. (win)

Exercise 2

Say whether the people in these sentences (a) succeeded in doing something, (b) succeeded in doing something but only in the face of difficulty or (c) failed to do something.

- 1 He was so nervous when he stood up to sing, but I think he carried it off rather well.
- 2 She sailed through the interview and was offered the job immediately.
- 3 I lost out in the job interview to another woman who had more experience than me.
- 4 I'd hoped to go to Peru in March but the trip fell through.

5 We packed in such a lot on our trip to Korea – we saw all the main cities and sights.

6 The college authorities ignored our protests at first, but we won through in the end.

Exercise 3

Correct the ten mistakes with phrasal verbs in this paragraph.

Oliver has always wanted to become an engineer, but it was quite difficult for him to get a place at college. He didn't get in at his first attempt, losing out to applicants with better exam grades. However, at his second try he succeeded to win a place. He then sailed over all his first-year exams but failed some of his exams in the second year, as he started spending a lot of time on the rugby pitch, playing for the college first team, rather than in the library. Then his team fell back in the college league after three games, so he wasn't too happy and did even less work, and as a result he failed three exams. However, he's always prided himself for being able to revise very efficiently when he's really under pressure, and in the third year he did enough to pull himself across. His friends were amazed that he managed to carry it out, as they were sure he could not have packed up enough study in such a short time to get by the exams. But Oliver knew that he had only just got over and he resolved to organise his life much better after leaving college.

P.S: Please submit the document on Google Classroom Platform.

Thank you!