

COMMUNICATION

Living up to expectations

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_1031X

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can recognise and recall a variety of words related to expectations.
- I can talk about success and failure in life.



Warm-up

When you were younger, what job did you dream of doing?



What were some of your other hopes and dreams?

expectations

Expectations are the **feelings** that something is **going to happen** in the future.

It's often something good but it doesn't have to be.



My teachers always had **high expectations** for me.



More expressions

- **Look at** the verbs in bold.
- **Explain** their meaning using a different word.



I think I need to **lower** my expectations a bit. I always expect everything to be perfect. It's exhausting!

For me, the secret to being happy is learning to **manage** my expectations. Things won't always go to plan!

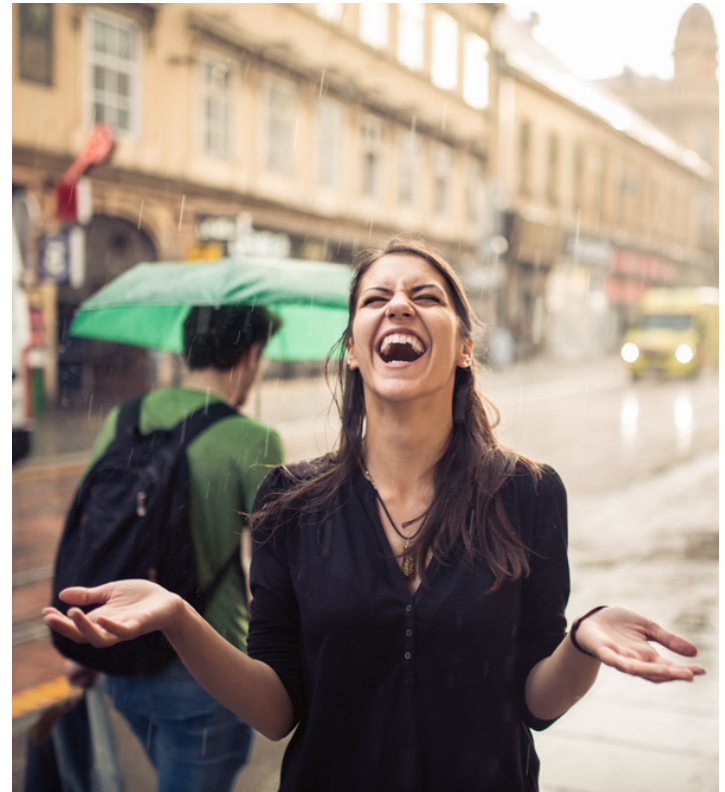




Discuss

Choose a question below. **Ask** a classmate.

- 1 In what areas of life do we tend to have high expectations?
- 2 Why do some people have very high expectations?
- 3 How can we better manage our expectations?





Describing people

ambitious



Ambitious people **want to achieve** a lot in life.

successful



Successful people feel like they **have achieved** a lot.

realistic

If you're a **realistic** person, you have a **good understanding** of what you are **likely to achieve or not**.

If you're an **unrealistic person**, you are the total opposite of this!



Retiring at the age of 30 is **unrealistic** for most people.



Discuss

in **breakout rooms** or **together as a class.**

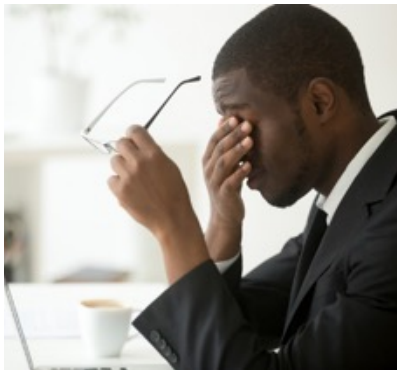
Would you describe yourself as an ambitious person or not?



Is it more important to be successful or ambitious, in your opinion? Why?

to live up to *something*

If you **live up to something**, you do **as well as** someone hopes.



I can never **live up to** my own expectations.

Talking about regrets and failures

regret



I have some **regrets** about my education: I should have gone to university when I was 18, for example.

failure



My biggest **failure** was not making the most of my education. At school I was a terrible student.

to turn out



My first job **turned out** to be a disappointment. I hardly learned anything there!



I think I **let** my parents **down**. I was never good enough for them!

To **let someone down** means to cause someone to feel disappointed.

Can you think of a time a person you know **let you down**?



Fill in the gaps

Complete each sentence with the correct word.

- 1 My parents always had really high _____ of me and I always tried to _____ up to them.
- 2 I set myself a lot of ambitious _____, the main one being that I hoped I would get a place at Oxford University.
- 3 In the end, it turned _____ that I preferred Bristol to Oxford.
- 4 I still feel like I let my parents _____, but I don't _____ not going to Oxford. I don't consider it to be a _____ at all.

live
failure
expectations
out
goals
down
regret



Discuss

What do you consider to be a 'failure'?



Have you ever failed at something before?



Quote

Read this quotation.

**Happiness equals
reality minus expectations.**



How would you explain the meaning of this quote?

Can you give any examples from your own experience?

What's the secret to being happy in life?



End of the lesson

Idiom

to cut your losses

Meaning: to stop doing something that's not successful before it gets even worse.

Example: The bar I owned hadn't been doing well for a while. So I **cut my losses** and shut it down before I lost any more money!



Additional practice



Unscramble



1

I have high

so I'm not
content

myself and

I'm very
ambitious

expectations of

with second
place.



2



regret it

expectations
and I

I often don't

live up to my

The trouble is,

when I fail.



Discuss



What's been your biggest success in life?



What helped you achieve that success?





Realistic or not?



John

I'd like to start my own business as soon as I finish school and hope to be making 7 figures by the time I'm 24.

I want to start my own business while getting my MBA part-time. I've been a manager for 5 years.



Jane

Whose goal is more realistic?

What's a realistic goal you have for the next 10 years?

Do you have any goals for your English?

How are you going to achieve them?





Answer key

- P. 13:**
1. expectations, live
 2. goals
 3. out
 4. down, regret, failure

- P. 19:**
- A.** I have high expectations of myself and I'm very ambitious so I'm not content with second place.
- B.** The trouble is, I often don't live up to my expectations and I regret it when I fail.



Summary

Talking about expectations

- *expectations; to lower; to manage; to live up to something.*
- *I need **to lower** my **expectations**. I always expect everything to be perfect!*
- *I can never **live up to** my own expectations.*

Describing people

- *ambitious; successful; realistic*
- *Is it more important to be **successful** or **ambitious**?*

Regrets and failures

- *regret; failure; to turn out*
- *My first job **turned out** to be a disappointment.*



Vocabulary

expectations

to lower

to manage

to live up to something

ambitious

successful

realistic

regret

failure

to turn out

