

UNIT 6 TALKING ABOUT INSPIRING PEOPLE

Practice 1. Look at the pictures below. Then discuss the questions!

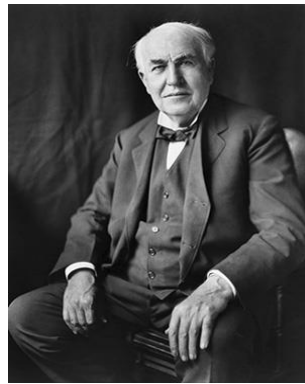
Do you know these people? Who are they? Where are they from? Do you think they are inspiring? Why? What do they have in common? Can you match the picture with the names?

What is success in your opinion? What is failure? Do you think failure means something to someone's success?



Bill Gates

(taken from: www.wanderlustworker.com)



Thomas Edison



J.K. Rowling

(taken from: www.britannica.com)



Oprah Winfrey

(taken from: variety.com/2018)

Practice 2. Without reading the passage, do you know Katy Perry? What do you know about her? Do you think she succeeded easily? Read the passage and answer the questions orally. After you answer the question, work in group of 3 or 4 to compare your

answer, discuss the question for which you have different answer. Finally, using your own wording and basing on your answer to the questions, tell the class about Katy Perry!

Katy Perry



Most people know the name Katy Perry, but they don't know the **struggles** that she **went through** to finally get that **breakthrough** she was after. Perry started her career early in her life, dropping out of high school after freshman year in 1999 to **pursue** singing. Originally, she was a gospel singer, taking cues from her parents who were Born Again Christians.

In 2001 Katy Perry released her first gospel album with Red Hill Records, which was commercially unsuccessful. After selling only 200 copies of her album, the record company **ceased** operations and subsequently went out of business. Afterward, Perry **switched gears** to popular music, moving to Los Angeles to record with producer Glen Ballard.

In 2003 she was signed to Island Def Jam, which was also a contract that was **terminated**. In 2004 she signed with Columbia Records who **sought** to make her the lead vocalist in a band called The Matrix. However, that deal also fell through when Columbia Records **shelved** the project at about 80% completion.

After being dropped from three labels, you would think that Perry would have **given up**. She didn't. She continued to pursue her career, working odd jobs and doing back-up vocals until she was signed to the newly-formed Capitol Music Group in 2006. It was there that she worked on her first **huge hit** single, I Kissed a Girl, which started her career as a commercial success.

(taken from: www.wanderlustworker.com)

1. Why does the writer use the word "struggles" to describe Katy Perry in pursuing her career?
2. Do you think the word "struggles" is intentionally made in plural? What can be the purpose?
3. Why did she drop out from high school after her freshman year?
4. Why did Red Hill Records cease its operation?
5. Why did Perry switch gear to popular music?
6. Did she succeed with "Island Def Jam" ? How do you know it?

7. Why do you think Columbia Records shelve the project after 80% of completion?
8. What can you say about Katy Perry?
9. If you had been in Katy Perry's position after being dropped from three label, would you have continued pursuing the career as a singer?
10. What can you learn from her?

Practice 3. Conditional type III. It is used when we talk about expectations in the past which were not fulfilled, something which was not as expected!

1. If I had been in Katy Perry's position, I would have given up pursuing my career.
Meaning: I was not in his position.
2. If I had been a billionaire, I would have visited Venice.
Meaning: I was not a billionaire.
3. If They had invited me, I would have joined them.
Meaning: they did not invite me.
4. If they had been patient enough, they would have met.
Meaning: They were not patient enough

What does each sentence mean?

1. If She had given up, she would have failed.
2. We would not have dropped out from high school if she had not wanted to be a singer.
3. If they had been more serious, they would have succeeded.
4. She wouldn't have got lost if we had brought a GPS.
5. If he had not listened to us, he would have been in trouble.
6. If we had bought the ticket a month in advance, it would not have that costly.
7. The trip would not have been too long and tiring if the road had not been very bad.
8. If we had not been told, we could have tried the local food fermented with saliva.

Practice 4. In 10 minutes, make a dialogue about an inspiring figure. You can continue this dialogue or you make your own. Remember, you do not have to write your dialogue and the dialogue below is only a model. Describe the success, the failures, the ups and downs of the figure you are talking about!

Maya : Is there particular person that you admire?
 Melanie : Someone I admire? I think J.K Rowling is really inspiring to me.
 Maya : J.K. Rowling? Isn't she the author of Harry Potter?
 Melanie : You are right! Behind her great success as a writer, she went through very Tough struggles.
 Maya : Ok, tell me about her.
 Melanie :
 Maya :
 Melanie :
 Maya :
 Melanie :

Practice 5a. In approximately 10 minutes to prepare, work in pair and describe one of the following figures, or you can choose your own. Share with the class. Other students ask questions!



(taken from: www.westerncape.gov.za)



(taken from: www.dw.com)



taken from: id.wikipedia.org



taken from: id.wikipedia.org.



(taken from: www.thefamouspeople.com)



(taken from: www.marca.com)

Practice 5b. Spontaneously (without any preparation), individually choose one of the inspiring people above and tell your friends in group of 3-4. Your description should include; the name, the nationality, his/her struggles including the failures and the success. The uniqueness, personality, your opinion about the figure!

Practice 6. Voluntarily and spontaneously tell about one inspiring figure in front of the class, as much as you can. Your description should include: The name, the nationality, his/her struggles including the failures and the success. The uniqueness, Personality, your opinion about the figure. Try to use the following words in your description. See how many of them you can use!

You do not have to use them in order (you can use them in random).

inspiring	failures	failed	success
succeeded	give up	perseverant	motivation
determination	determined	struggles	reached
difficulties	education	uniqueness	learn
lesson	inspiration	inspires	value
influence			