



1A What motivates you?

1 READING & SPEAKING

- a Think of a person you consider to be successful. What makes you think they are successful? What, in your view, are the reasons for their success?
- b Read the article and match the headings with the paragraphs. There is one heading you don't need.
- A A fierce spirit
B Being my own person
C Learning from my mistakes
D Needing to show them they were wrong
E The courage to go out and seek my fortune
- c Read the article again and write the initials (e.g., AP) of the person next to the questions below.
- Who...?
- ☐ found it hard to manage on their own
 - ☐ was motivated by the same desire until they became successful
 - ☐ thinks that a conflict helped them become stronger
 - ☐ was made fun of by a member of their family
 - ☐ is grateful for something their parents did wrong
 - ☐ asked a parent for advice
 - ☐ learned an important lesson from a parent
 - ☐ was treated in the same way at school and at work

I didn't get where I am today without... Successful people talk about their inspiration and motivation



1 ☐ Ann Patchett,
US novelist

Revenge is a terrific motivating force for young creative people and it certainly kept me going right through to the publication of my first novel. I learned to read late, and as a result the nuns at my school in Tennessee had me marked down as being somewhere between slow and stupid. They taught me for 12 years and even after I'd caught up and gotten smarter, I was still thought of as dumb. "They'll be sorry when they discover I'm a great writer," I'd say to myself. "In retirement, the single thing they'll be most proud of will be that they had me as a student." And so it continued right through into the workplace where, in my first teaching job after leaving graduate school, the male head of the department would come to me whenever the secretarial staff were off. "Type this up for me, will you, Ann?" he'd say habitually. "One day," I would think, gritting my teeth, "One day..."

dumb /dʌm/ adj. **OPP** smart NAME stupid
graduate school noun NAME US college for post-graduate studies



2 ☐ John Malkovich,
US actor, producer, and director

There must have been something unique or, at least, different about me as a boy, because I recall it would sometimes amuse my brother and his friends to throw cans at me. Why? Because of the clothes I wore, which they didn't like, or because I wouldn't do whatever it was that they wanted me to, or just because it was fun. But being different is fine. It was my father who encouraged in me the notion that I and I alone am responsible for my own life, for what I do and don't do, for my opinions and beliefs, and it's proved to be a great source of strength. I'm often asked if I read and take notice of critics. Which ones? Those who love the work? Who hate it? Or are indifferent? As a director, as in life, you have to know your own mind and be prepared to stick to your guns.



3 ☐ Marcus Wareing,
UK chef

One of my instructors at Southport Catering College knew Anton Edelmann, the chef at the Savoy, and recommended me to him. I was very nervous about leaving my comfort zone and coming to London. I was a loner who'd never made friends because I was always working, and I was happy enough being alone and busy.

But I did come to London, and even though it was a very tough environment, I worked like a real trouser and was very quick to learn. The hardest part was being away from my family and having to deal with other people while having no management or interpersonal skills whatsoever. So I called my dad every day, to fill him in on the good and bad, and ask him how he would deal with this or that.

Southport a town in northwest England
the Savoy one of London's most prestigious hotels

d Talk in small groups.

- 1 From reading the text, what impression do you get of the four people's personalities?
- 2 Which of them do you most identify with? Why?
- 3 What or who motivates you...?
 - in your work or studies
 - to improve your English
 - to improve other skills, e.g., sports, music, other activities (give examples)



4 Paulo Coelho,
Brazilian writer

The family is a microcosm of society. It's where your spirit and beliefs are first tested. My mother and father wanted only the best for me and my sister, but had very rigid ideas of what that "best" should be. For me to become a lawyer or even an engineer would have satisfied them, but a writer? Never. I was a determined and rebellious kid, though, and having failed to change my mind by conventional methods, they looked for more dramatic and extreme ones. **In a sense**, though, I thank them for that. I wouldn't have gotten where I am without fighting to live the life I wanted for myself. I long since forgave them. We all make mistakes, parents included.

LEXIS IN CONTEXT

- e Look at the **highlighted** phrases and guess the meaning of the ones you don't know from the context. Then match them with the definitions 1–7.
- 1 _____ to know what you want or like
 - 2 _____ **IDM** (informal) to refuse to change your mind about sth even when other people are trying to persuade you that you are wrong
 - 3 _____ in one way
 - 4 _____ (colloquial) the working or living environment in which we feel safe and unthreatened
 - 5 _____ **IDM** to be determined to continue to do sth in a difficult or unpleasant situation
 - 6 **fill sb in (on)** **PHR V** to tell sb about what has happened
 - 7 _____ **PHR V** (with sb) to reach the same level or standard as sb who is better or more advanced
- f Choose five more words or phrases from the text that you think are useful.
- g Read the information about looking up idioms in a dictionary.

Looking up idioms in a dictionary

You can usually find the definition of an idiom under one of its "full" words (nouns, verbs, adverbs or adjectives, but NOT prepositions and articles), in a section marked, for example, **IDM**. So the definition of *stick to your guns* will probably be given under *stick* or *guns*.

⚠ After some very common verbs, e.g., *be*, *get* and adjectives, e.g., *good*, *bad*, the idioms are usually under the entries for the next "full" word.

Phrasal verbs **PHR V** are always after the main verb, e.g., *get back* and *get over* would be under *get*.

- h Now look at the following idioms with *mind*. What do you think they mean? Check with a dictionary.
- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| speak your mind | mind your own business |
| cross your mind | be of two minds about sth |

2 GRAMMAR discourse markers (1): connectors

- a Without looking back at the text, with a partner try to remember how these sentences continue. Don't worry if you can't remember the exact words.
- 1 **Ann Patchett**: "I learned to read late, and **as a result**..."
 - 2 **John Malkovich**: "It would sometimes amuse my brother and his friends to throw cans at me. Why? **Because of**..."
 - 3 **Marcus Wareing**: "But I did come to London, and **even though**..., I worked like a real trouper and was very quick to learn."
 - 4 **Marcus Wareing**: "So I called my dad every day, **to**..."
- b Compare your answers with the text.
- c Which of the **bold** connectors in **a** introduces...?
- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 a result <u>as a result</u> | 3 a purpose _____ |
| 2 a reason _____ | 4 a contrast <u>even though</u> |
- d ➤ **p.138 Grammar Bank 1A**. Learn more about connectors, and practice them.
- e 1 2)) Listen to the sentences. When the speakers pause, write down how you think the sentences might continue.
- f 1 3)) Now listen to the whole sentences. Are they similar to what you wrote?