71 Success and failure

A Success

A Maximo, your restaurant chain has been **thriving** now for over 20 years. What's the **secret of your success**?

B There's no secret really, and it hasn't always been successful. Life was tough at the beginning, and, as you would expect with a new business, we've had various **obstacles** to **overcome**. But I guess the big **breakthrough** was winning the *Master Chef* competition on TV, and since then we've **gone from strength to strength**. However, I don't want to **boast** about myself. The main reason for the success, I think, is the **dynamic** team of young chefs I have working for me. They are **passionate** about what they do and **aspire to** be the best. And you can never be **satisfied** with where you are, never relax. **Forward planning** is essential …

GLOSSARY	
thrive	grow or develop well SYN **flourish**
the secret of your success	a way of doing things that has brought you success
obstacle	a situation or event that makes it difficult for you to do sth
overcome	manage to control or deal with a problem
breakthrough	an important development that may lead to an achievement or agreement: ***make a breakthrough***
go from strength to strength	become more and more successful
boast	talk with too much pride about sth you have done or can do **boast** *n*
dynamic	(of a person or a business) full of energy and ideas **dynamism** *n*
passionate	showing very strong feelings
aspire (to sth / to be sth)	have a strong desire to do or be sth
satisfied	pleased because you have done what you wanted to do OPP **dissatisfied**
forward planning	planning for the future

1 Good or bad? Write *G* or *B*.

1 We went from strength to strength. .....
2 I've overcome all obstacles. .....
3 I'm still waiting for a breakthrough. .....
4 Their business is flourishing. .....
5 I've never aspired to anything. .....
6 He's always boasting. .....
7 The company has been thriving for years. .....
8 They're a dynamic business. .....
9 We've had so many obstacles. .....
10 She is easily satisfied. .....

2 Complete the questions with a suitable word from the top of the page.

1 Can businesses _____ without a lot of hard work and a bit of luck?
2 In life, is it important to be _____ about what you do and the way you do it?
3 Is _____ planning important if you want to be successful at anything?
4 Is there something that you particularly _____ to do in your own future?
5 Have there been any particular obstacles in your life that you've had to _____ ?
6 Would you say that _____ is an essential quality for success in business – and life?
7 Do you think it's possible to talk about the things you have done or achieved without _____ ?
8 Are there positive things you've done where you nevertheless feel a bit _____ for some reason?
9 Think of someone who is very successful. What is the _____ of their success?
10 Can you think of a recent _____ in the area of either medicine or technology?

3 ABOUT YOU Write answers to the questions in Exercise 2, or ask another student.

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TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS

B Failure

Is the business **going downhill**?
~ Yeah, it's a real **struggle**. Marek thinks he's a **failure**.

Carla **came bottom** in the exams.
~ Yes, and I only just **scraped through**.
Mum says we've **let her down**.

Why did you **drop out** of the course?
~ Oh, it was **hopeless**. I was **getting nowhere**.

Callum and Natalie are always having **rows**.
~ I know, and I don't want to **interfere**,
but I doubt the marriage will **last**.

SPOTLIGHT *last*

Last often means 'continue for a period of time'.
- *The lesson **lasts** 45 minutes.*

It can also mean 'continue to exist, function or survive'.
- *I don't think their relationship will **last**.* (as above)
- *The good weather won't **last**.*
- *These shoes should **last** a long time.*

Finally, **last** can mean 'be enough for what sb needs'.
- *The money will **last** me a couple of weeks.*

GLOSSARY

go downhill	get worse in quality, health, etc. SYN **deteriorate**
struggle	sth that is very difficult to do or succeed in **struggle** v
failure	a person or thing that is not successful OPP **success**
come bottom	receive the lowest score in an exam OPP **come top**
scrape through (an exam)	only just succeed in passing an exam
let sb down	make sb disappointed because you haven't behaved well or done what you said you would do
drop out (of sth)	leave a course or stop doing sth before you have finished
hopeless	giving no hope that sth/sb will be successful or get better
get somewhere/ nowhere (with sth/sb)	make/not make progress with sth/sb
row (about/over sth)	(pronounced like *now*) a noisy argument or serious disagreement between two or more people **row** v
interfere (in sth)	get involved in a situation that does not involve you and where you are probably not wanted **interference** n

4 **Circle the correct word(s). Sometimes both words may be correct.**

1 Unfortunately, I ***got / came*** bottom in the end of year progress tests.
2 I don't want to ***interrupt / interfere in*** their relationship.
3 The film ***continues for / lasts*** an hour and a half.
4 She said she'd help but didn't, so she let us ***down / out*** badly.
5 Basically, the campaign has been a ***fail / failure***.
6 Her health has been ***going downhill / deteriorating*** for some time.
7 I heard they had a terrible ***row / argument***.
8 Jeans usually ***last / wear*** a long time.

5 **Two words are missing in each dialogue. What are they? Where do they go?**

1 The business is downhill. ~ Yeah, it's been for a while now. ....
2 What was the about? ~ Kate got annoyed because of Sonny's in her project. ....
3 Did Mia top in the exam? ~ Yes, but Tom only just through. ....
4 Do you think the relationship will long? ~ No. Not if Kieran keeps her down. ....
5 Why did she drop of the course? ~ She told me it was. ....
6 Why did you in their cooking? ~ I just felt they were nowhere with it. ....

6 **Complete the questions.**

Have you ever …

1 ..... top in anything?
2 just ..... through an exam?
3 ..... out of a course or class because you you didn't like it, or because it was too easy?
4 done something or achieved something that you thought was a real ..... ?
5 had a serious ..... with another person? What was it about? Do you have a good relationship with them now?
6 stopped doing something because you felt you were getting ..... ?

7 ABOUT YOU **Write answers to Exercise 6, or ask another student the questions.**

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TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS