

ACHIEVEMENT

Vocabulary in Action

A Match the phrasal verbs 1–10 with the definitions a–i.

- 1 waltz through ☐
- 2 pan out ☐
- 3 go up against ☐
- 4 take off ☐
- 5 knuckle down ☐
- 6 pull (sth) off ☐
- 7 fall through ☐
- 8 scrape through ☐
- 9 write (sth/sb) off ☐

- a be a success (for a business/trend/etc)
- b manage to succeed, but only just
- c (of a plan/project/etc) fail, not be a success
- d succeed in passing a test/exam/etc without any effort
- e begin to work hard/try harder (after a period of not working hard/trying)
- f face a very difficult obstacle/opponent/situation
- g succeed in achieving sth difficult (a project/plan)
- h stop giving attention to sth/sb you are sure will fail
- i go the way you had planned

B Complete the sentences with the correct form of the phrasal verbs from exercise A.

- 1 I'll never win a prize for my abilities in maths, but I can just about _____ an exam.
- 2 Up until now you've done very little revision or preparation for your exams and if you don't _____, you'll find yourself kicked out of college at the end of this term.
- 3 Georgia is the best chess player on our team, but she'll be _____ some of the top players in the country, so I don't know if she'll manage to win the tournament.
- 4 We were planning to buy new sports equipment for the school gym, but our plans _____ when the local council refused to give us the funds.
- 5 The Hatton Garden thieves thought they had _____ the perfect burglary, but images on CCTV in the local area allowed the police to identify them.
- 6 Why are you so worried about your history exam? It's your best subject – you'll _____ it!
- 7 Jenna's small clothes design business really _____ after a Hollywood actress wore one of her dresses on the red carpet.
- 8 Their plan to televise a well-known novel didn't _____ when the author refused to sell them the rights to his book.
- 9 Suzie was upset because she felt her teachers were only interested in the best students and that they had _____ her _____ long ago.

C Circle the correct words. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

- 1 I sincerely hope you fulfil your **ambition** / **dream** / **record** of becoming a brain surgeon.
- 2 A sudden **surge** / **rise** / **increase** in demand meant that the factory workforce had to work overtime to fulfil the orders which were flooding in.
- 3 Nina has **advocated** / **achieved** / **accomplished** so much since she started out strumming her guitar and writing songs in her bedroom!
- 4 After 30 years in the business, Joseph is at the **top** / **head** / **peak** of his profession.
- 5 Our **goal** / **objective** / **aim** is to open a branch of our store in every major town around the country.
- 6 Callum has an incredible **drive** / **will** / **perseverance** to succeed and I'm sure he'll be a partner in the law firm where he works before he's thirty.
- 7 If you want to **achieve** / **reach** / **attain** your goal of becoming a professional athlete, you'll need sound financial backing and a top-class manager.
- 8 His success as an actor has **reached** / **exceeded** / **surpassed** all our expectations.
- 9 Never in my wildest **dreams** / **hopes** / **wishes** did I think I'd get this job.
- 10 I think it's sad that so many young people today want to **imitate** / **aspire** / **emulate** footballers rather than politicians or scientists.

D Complete the sentences with these verbs. The words in bold will help you.

do get go hit (x2) lose make meet procure set spearhead

- 1 I believe that if you _____ yourself **goals** in life, you're more likely to succeed, both financially and career-wise.
- 2 I'm going to have to pull an all-nighter if I want to _____ the **deadline**.
- 3 Turn the power off and on and then press the 'restart' button; that should _____ the **trick**.
- 4 Our manager knows he was in the wrong, but he won't admit it because he doesn't want to _____ **face**.
- 5 Eric is prepared to do the lowliest of jobs in the company in order to _____ a **foothold** in the publishing business.
- 6 Just because he's your uncle, that doesn't mean he's obliged to _____ a **job** for you, you know!
- 7 Jo is _____ the **campaign** to encourage people to cycle into town instead of driving.
- 8 Medical researchers have _____ a **breakthrough** in their quest to find a cure for Hodgkin's Disease.
- 9 Laura, a new-comer on the tennis scene, really _____ the **ground running** when she beat the current champion in her first tennis match of the season.
- 10 Since Martin changed schools, he's been _____ from **strength to strength** and should do well in his exams later this year.
- 11 After coming last in the talent contest, Thomas _____ **rock bottom** and it took him ages to come out of the depression.

E Complete the sentences with these words. The words in bold will help you.

credit · dismal · overnight · recipe · remarkable · rise · strongest · turn-up · unbelievable · useful

- 1 Unfortunately, his attempt to start a business was a _____ **failure** and ended in bankruptcy.
- 2 Putting Ryan in charge of sales is a _____ **for disaster** – you know how incompetent he is!
- 3 Leicester City's triumph in the 2015–2016 football Premier League was a _____ **achievement**.
- 4 The meeting was productive and all the team members made _____ **contributions** to the discussion.
- 5 James Fernandez became an _____ **success** when his song became a massive online hit.
- 6 The reality star's **precipitous** _____ **to fame** was followed by an equally sudden downfall.
- 7 Winning a prize in the photography competition was a _____ **for the books** and ultimately led to her pursuing photography as a career.
- 8 Aidan is a _____ **to you** both; he's one of our top students.
- 9 With a new management team, this organisation has made an _____ **turnaround** over the last year and is set to make a profit next year.
- 10 As we're in agreement over who **the** _____ **candidate** is, shall we invite Mr Peters to join our firm at the earliest opportunity?