

Not everyone who's on top today got there with success after success. More often than not, those who history best remembers were faced with **1)** **(NUMBER)** problems that made them work harder and show more determination than others. Next time you're feeling down about your **2)** **(FAIL)** at school or any other business, keep these ten **3)** **(FAME)** people **4)**..... mind and remind yourself that sometimes **5)**..... **(FAIL)** is just **6)** first step towards success.

While **Henry Ford** is known as one of **7)** richest and **8)** **(INFLUENCE)** people in **9)**..... world whose introduction of the Model T automobile revolutionized transportation and American industry, he wasn't an immediate success. **10)** fact, his early businesses failed and left him broke five times before he founded the **11)**.....**(SUCCESS)** Ford Motor Company.

Bill Gates didn't seem to promise any success after giving **12)** his studies in Harvard and starting a failed first business called Traf-O-Data with his friend Paul Allen. While this early idea didn't work, Gates' later work did, creating the **13)** **(GLOBE)** empire that is Microsoft.

Today **Walt Disney** rakes in billions from products, movies and theme parks around the world, but Walt Disney himself had a bit of a rough start. Hardly had he started his first job in a newspaper when he was fired because, "he lacked **14)** **(IMAGINE)** and had no good ideas." After that, Disney started a number of businesses that didn't last too long and ended with loss of money and **15)** **(FAIL)**. He kept working hard, however, and **16)** **(EVENT)** found a recipe for success that worked.

Most of us take **Albert Einstein's** name as synonymous with **17)** **(GENIAL)**, but he didn't always show such promise. Einstein did not speak until he was four and did not read until he was seven, causing his **18)** **(TEACH)** and parents to think he had mental problems, was slow and anti-social. **19)** **(EVENT)**, he was expelled from school and couldn't enter the Zurich Polytechnic School. It might have taken him a bit longer, but most people would agree that he caught on pretty well **20)** the end, winning the Nobel Prize and changing the face of modern physics.

In his early years, **21)** **(TEACH)** told **Thomas Edison** he was "too stupid to learn anything." Work was no better, as he was fired from his first two jobs for not being productive enough. Even as an **22)** **(INVENT)**, Edison made 1,000

23)..... **(SUCCESS)** attempts at inventing the light bulb. Of course, all those

24)..... **(SUCCESS)** attempts finally resulted **25)** the design that worked.

The brothers **Orville and Wilbur Wright** had to cope **26)** depression and family illness before starting the bicycle shop that would lead them **27)**..... experimenting with flight. After **28)** **(NUMBER)** attempts at creating flying machines, several years of hard work, and tons of failed models, the brothers finally created a plane that could get up in the air and stay there.

While today **Abraham Lincoln** is remembered as one of **29)** ... greatest leaders of our nation, Lincoln's life wasn't so easy. In his youth he went to war a captain and returned a private (if you're not familiar with military ranks, just know that private is as low as it goes.) Lincoln didn't stop failing there, however. He started **30)** **(NUMBER)** failed businesses and lost in **31)** **(NUMBER)** elections for public office he participated **32)**.....

Oprah Winfrey: Most people know Oprah as one of **33)**most **34)**..... **(ICON)** faces on TV as well as one of **30)** richest and most influential women in **35)**..... world. Oprah faced a hard road to get to that position, however, having a terrible **36)**.....**(CHILD)**. No sooner had she been born than her teenage mother fled away leaving her to live on her grandmother's farm. The family was so poor that Winfrey often wore dresses made of potato sacks, for which the local children made fun of her. At 13, after years of horrific life, Winfrey ran away from home. Later she also had **37)**..... **(NUMBER)** career setbacks including losing her job as a television reporter because she was "unfit for TV."

Stephen King: The first book by this author, the iconic thriller *Carrie*, was turned down 30 times, finally causing King to give **38)** and throw it in the trash. His wife fished it out and **39)** **(COURAGE)**him to finish it and send it again, and the rest is history, with King now having hundreds **40)** books published the distinction of being one of the best-selling authors of all time. His books have sold more than 350 million copies which have been made into many movies and television films.