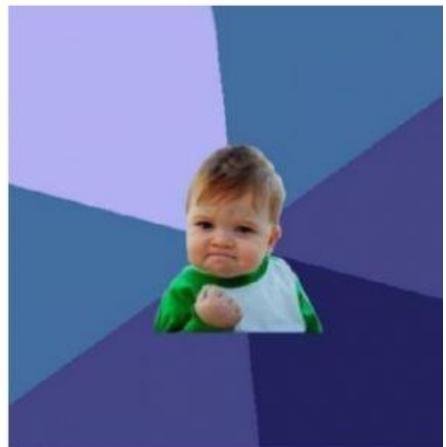


Would you like to be a meme?

1. Look at the meme and discuss the questions.

- Have you seen this meme before? If yes, in what context?
- Why is it popular?
- What might be the story behind it?



2. Watch a video [<https://youtu.be/umW4koJU3e0>] (to 02:20) and make notes about the following topics.

a) 11 months

.....

b) 300 likes

.....

c) a green and blue background

.....

d) brain surgery

.....

3. Watch the second part of the video (02:21–03:21) and tick the statements that are true and correct the false ones.

- a) Sam has a lot of mixed feelings about being famous as a baby.
- b) People don't recognize him as a kid from the meme.
- c) Sam thinks he's an ordinary lazy teenager.
- d) Sam started doing art thanks to his mother's influence.
- e) Sam wants to keep being associated with the Success Kid meme.

4. Discuss.

- Do you know other stories about people who became memes?
- Would you like to be a meme? How would you feel if you became a meme?

5. Read some comments about this story and match the words and phrases in bold with their meanings.

- a) It was so heart-warming to see Sam's mother say how happy she was when the Success Kid meme **took off**.
- b) Just another case of 'someone's famous for being famous'. Are you serious, people? It's not as though this kid **pulled off** something great by himself. Let's get real.
- c) When his mother said he managed to survive **against the odds**, it brought tears to my eyes. This fact makes this story so special!
- d) The kid got famous thanks to his mum. But can we call it success? Hardly. You can't count on something like chance if you want to **get ahead** in life.
- e) It's a nice story but it's all just **sheer luck**. Some people spend years trying to achieve success and still fail.
- f) I can't tell you how much I love this meme! I had it on my phone display during my high school exams. I still believe it was something that helped me **ace** each one of them in the end.
- g) I guess when Sam's mum saw his picture as a meme she somehow hoped that it would bring her son fame and he'd **never look back**. But honestly, what was she thinking when she shared his picture in the first place? Looks like most people don't realize how dangerous it can be.

MEANINGS:

- 1) achieve success, often in your career or in life
- 2) become increasingly successful
- 3) despite the problems that make your success unlikely
- 4) do very well
- 5) manage to do something difficult
- 6) pure chance
- 7) suddenly start to be successful or popular

6. Read the captions found on the Success Kid meme. Decide what situations they might be related to and choose the funniest one.

- Ate spaghetti while wearing a white shirt. Didn't get sauce on it.
- Get sick on Friday. Have a three-day weekend.
- When you're late for work. But your boss was even later.
- Don't know a question in a test. Answer is in another question.
- Found a birthday card from two years ago. Had 50 bucks in it.

7. Complete the questions with the correct form of the words and phrases in the box.

ace	against the odds	get ahead	never look back
pull off	sheer luck	take off	

- a) Do you know anybody whose career or popularity just because they happened to be in the right place at the right time?
- b) What qualities do you think people need to in life? Name the top three in your opinion.
- c) Are you inspired by stories where characters achieve success? Why/Why not? If yes, give an example of such a story.
- d) Have you ever managed to something you initially thought was impossible? If yes, was it because of or something else?
- e) Have you ever used a lucky charm to help you to tests, exams or job interviews? Why do you think people find lucky charms helpful?
- f) What kind of decisions might help people reach success and?

Discuss the questions in ex. 7.