

Success Stories

Fill in the yellow gaps with the words from the box and the green gaps with the words in the correct form from the in-class activity:

climbed raw broken inclined established turn took defeated
best-selling foundations attention rein storm flaw failed

1. Oprah Winfrey

One of America's most powerful women, Oprah Winfrey had to **o** a myriad of **o** throughout her life. Growing up in **a** **home**, Winfrey lived in poverty and **e** sexual abuse from male family members for many years. But after moving in with her father, she managed to **o** this trauma and went on to become an honors student with a full scholarship ride to college.



Her **career** **_____ off** while she was still in her sophomore year, working for CBS in Nashville as a news anchor. This was merely the beginning of Winfrey's successful career, as she **_____ her way up** the television industry and became America's favorite TV persona.

Today, she is the founder and CEO of Harpo Productions, a multimedia production company, as well as a **_____ author** and philanthropist, all while **maintaining her** **_____ on** daytime television.

2. Sara Blakely

From a young age, Sara Blakely wanted to **f** in her father's **f** and become a lawyer. But despite her best efforts and **_____ ambition**, she failed the LSAT exam twice, getting an even lower grade the second time around. **Feeling** **_____**, she got a job at Disney World and eventually moved back home with her mother.



Blakely spent the next seven years selling fax machines before she had her “E _____!” m _____. After cutting off the feet of her pantyhose to fit into a pair of white jeans, she saw a new product opportunity. But even after developing the first Spanx prototype, it took months for her to find a manufacturer willing to take on the project. Fast forward to today, Blakely has _____ **herself as a powerful entrepreneur** who built a multibillion-dollar shapewear company based on a simple idea.

3. James Dyson

As British richest man, James Dyson has taken the world by _____ with his inventions. However, his schooling is not what you'd expect from a world-renowned inventor. Indeed, Dyson was _____ towards the arts as a student and studied furniture design at the Royal College of Art in London.



But his career path would take a _____ one day after becoming frustrated with his home vacuum. After breaking it apart and identifying a design _____ in the product, Dyson set out to create what would become a **market-changing invention**: the first bagless vacuum cleaner.

It took him 5 years and 5,126 _____ prototypes before he made one that worked. But after being unable to find a manufacturer that would produce it, Dyson p_____ his house on the l_____ to become a manufacturer himself. Even then, getting sellers and shops to stock his vacuum cleaner was a struggle, and being a one-man operation, he acted as the sole designer, engineer, manufacturer and salesperson of his product.

Although it took a while for his invention to get any _____ from consumers, once it did, it inevitably became a billion-dollar idea that set the _____ for Dyson's empire.