

Adapted from RW Coursebook (Ch6): Reading Comprehension Practice.

You Live and Learn

Maria had always believed that mistakes were failures. Growing up, she felt anxious whenever she got something wrong in class. Her teachers often marked her errors in red pen, and she would feel embarrassed when they were discussed in front of the class. For years, she avoided trying new things because she was afraid of making mistakes.

Everything changed when Maria started working with a new teacher, Mr. Chen. One day, he returned a test with several mistakes marked, but instead of just showing the correct answers, he wrote: "These mistakes show me where you need more help. That's valuable information!" Maria was surprised. She had never thought about her mistakes this way before.

Over the following weeks, Maria began to understand that learning is a journey, not a destination. She realized that her past experiences—both successful and unsuccessful—had shaped how she learned. She started to see mistakes as opportunities to improve, not reasons to feel ashamed. When she struggled with mathematics, instead of giving up, she asked questions and practiced more. Gradually, her confidence grew.

By the end of the year, Maria had transformed her mindset about learning. She still felt nervous sometimes, but now she expected to face challenges. She understood that challenges helped her grow. Her memories of past failures no longer made her anxious; instead, they reminded her of how much she had progressed. Maria had learned one of life's most important lessons: you live and learn.

Activity One: Vocabulary

Match the word to its simple definition:

Word	Definition
1. Growth Mindset	A. Say yes to something new
2. Resilience	B. Getting better over time
3. Progress	C. Thinking you can improve by trying hard
4. Embrace	D. Not giving up when things are hard

Activity Two: Detailed Reading

Read the text and answer the questions

1. According to the text, why did Maria avoid trying new things for years?
 - A. She didn't have enough time to practice
 - B. She was afraid of making mistakes
 - C. Her teachers didn't encourage her
 - D. She preferred to work alone

2. What did Maria do when she struggled with mathematics?

- A. She avoided the subject completely
- B. She asked other students for answers
- C. She asked questions and practised more
- D. She told Mr. Chen she couldn't do it

Main Idea

3. What is the main idea of this text?

- A. Maria's teachers were not good at teaching
- B. Learning from mistakes helps you grow
- C. Mathematics is a difficult subject for most students
- D. Mr. Chen was the best teacher Maria ever had
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4. Which sentence best summarizes Maria's journey?

- A. Maria was afraid of making mistakes her whole life
- B. Maria learned that mistakes help her improve, not shame her
- C. Maria became perfect at mathematics
- D. Maria changed schools to escape her past failures

Inference

5. Why was Maria surprised by Mr. Chen's comment about her mistakes?

- A. She didn't expect a teacher to be so strict
- B. She had never heard a teacher say positive things about mistakes before
- C. She thought Mr. Chen would fail her
- D. She didn't understand what "valuable information" meant

6. What can you infer about Maria's confidence by the end of the year?

- A. It decreased because she made more mistakes
- B. It stayed the same as before
- C. It increased because she saw challenges as ways to improve
- D. It disappeared completely when she faced difficult problems

Mood & Vocabulary

7. What is the mood at the beginning of the story?

- A. Happy and excited
- B. Nervous and embarrassed; teachers marked errors in red pen and discussed them in front of the class
- C. Angry and frustrated
- D. Calm and confident

8. How does the mood change by the end of the story?

- A. It becomes sadder; Maria avoided challenges more
 - B. It becomes hopeful; Maria now accepts challenges and sees her past failures as progress
 - C. It becomes angry; Maria no longer trusts her teachers
 - D. It stays the same; Maria still feels the same anxiety
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