attempt

1 Verb + attempt

Use the correct form of these verbs:

abandon *fail* *foil* *make*

1. Acting on information from the French, customs officials have ..... an attempt to smuggle a large quantity of heroin into the country.
2. Because of bad weather conditions, we were forced to ..... our attempt to reach the summit of Mt Everest.
3. I wonder what's wrong with Andy. Last night he ..... a few half-hearted attempts to join in our conversation, and then he left early.
4. All my attempts to start the car ....., so we ended up getting a taxi.

Go back and underline all the other interesting collocations in this exercise.

2 Common adjective collocations

Complete the sentences below with the following:

half-hearted *repeated*
brave *unsuccessful*
desperate *deliberate*
final *first*

1. I was pleased when I passed my driving test at the ..... attempt.
2. The driver of the train died at the scene of the accident despite ..... attempts by the paramedics to revive him.
3. Despite falling and injuring his leg, Jim made a ..... attempt to finish the marathon.
4. I made a rather ..... attempt to apologise for my behaviour, but it was obvious that I didn't really mean it.
5. I've made several ..... attempts to speak to the manager, but he is always 'out of his office at the moment'.
6. For two weeks the army made..... attempts to break through enemy lines, all of which ended in failure.
7. If the weather holds, the Chinese team are going to make a ..... attempt to reach the summit tomorrow.
8. The Foreign Secretary's speech on the Gulf War was a ..... attempt to embarrass the government.

3 In an attempt to + verb

Match the two halves of these sentences:

1. Two factories were closed
2. Talks are taking place at this very moment
3. Politicians on both sides have called for a ceasefire
4. Anne's very upset. I'm afraid I failed
5. He has succeeded

a. *in a last-ditch attempt to avert a strike.*
b. *in my attempt to persuade her to come to the party.*
c. *in a desperate attempt to cut costs.*
d. *in his latest attempt to break the world land speed record.*
e. *in an attempt to prevent further bloodshed.*

Go back and underline all the expressions with *attempt* in this exercise.



"He made a very brave attempt to finish the race."

Notes

1. In 1-2 you can also say *give up.*
2. In 2-4 you can also say a *pathetic* or *feeble* attempt.
3. Note the following passive structure:
   Several attempts have been made on the President's life.
   (Somebody tried to kill him.)
4. Note this example:
   She made no attempt to conceal / disguise / hide her anger.
5. Note these noun + noun collocations:
   The rescue attempt was hampered by fog.
   He received psychiatric help after his botched suicide attempt.

LIVEWORKSHEETS