

# Something to Shout About



## Lead-in

1 a. Look at the pictures showing people expressing joy on different occasions. What has happened to make them feel happy?

b. Now, in pairs, discuss success. Think about:

- its importance in our lives
- the happiness it brings
- problems it causes

2 a. Listen to some people talking about what they believe to be the secret of success and complete the gaps using 1 to 3 words.

- 1 Always ..... when other people doubt you.
- 2 Block out ..... and keep going.
- 3 Channel your efforts in the right direction and don't get ..... in different ways.
- 4 ..... until it becomes second nature.
- 5 Practise being ..... until it becomes second nature.
- 6 Be organised and ..... .
- 7 Never ..... and believe you are as good as everyone else.

b. Decide on three of the elements in Ex. 2a which you think are most important for success. Compare your list to your partner's.

3 Look at the following list of qualities and, in pairs, discuss in which profession(s) you think each one is necessary and why.

- physical strength
- foresight
- intellect
- quick thinking
- diplomacy
- power of persuasion
- determination
- discipline
- imagination
- team spirit

• lawyer	• teacher
• business executive	• politician
• firefighter	• car salesman
• footballer	• doctor
• art director	• novelist

A: I think strong powers of persuasion are essential for someone like a car salesman because he has to be able to talk people into buying from him.

B: Politicians need this, too, in order to gain support for an idea or a policy, don't you think?

4 **THINK!** Paraphrase the following quotations. Do you agree with them? Why (not)? Discuss in pairs.

'Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.'

Henry David Thoreau (American poet & philosopher)

'You always pass failure on the way to success.'

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## Idioms

9 a. Match items from the two columns to make idioms. In pairs, guess what the idioms might mean. Do you have similar idioms in your language?

1	d	have the world	a	seventh heaven
2		be in	b	the Joneses
3		be a feather	c	in one's cap
4		have one's head	d	at one's feet
5		keep on	e	show
6		keep up with	f	to the bone
7		rub sb up the	g	up to the top
8		steal the	h	in the clouds
9		work one's fingers	i	top of things
10		work one's way	j	wrong way

b. Now, rewrite the sentences below using one of the idioms from Ex. 9a.

- 1 Due to the success of her latest CD, the number of opportunities open to the young diva are limitless.  
*Due to the success of her latest CD, the young diva has the world at her feet.*
- 2 My grandfather, who was a poor farmer, laboured night and day to send his children to university.
- 3 Nowadays, people are so busy competing with those around them that they forget to enjoy life.
- 4 His ability to control the goings-on in the large company made him a fantastic manager.
- 5 Over the years, Sue has steadily improved her position in the law firm.



## Communication: Giving and Responding to News

10 a. Unjumble the coloured words to complete the cartoon caption below.

*I'm **elaps**ed to inform you that you got your **prom**otion, but I **reter**eg to inform you that we're **bankr**upt.*



b. What other phrases for giving good and bad news can you think of?

11 a. Listen to four short extracts. Match the extracts as you hear them with the situations.

A	Promotion	Extract 1	<input type="checkbox"/>
B	Marriage	Extract 2	<input type="checkbox"/>
C	Multiple births	Extract 3	<input type="checkbox"/>
D	Postponing a date	Extract 4	<input type="checkbox"/>

b. Listen again and tick (✓) the phrases that you hear.

### Giving News

- I'm afraid I've got some bad news.
- I regret to inform you that ...
- You'll never guess ...
- I hate to tell you this, but ...
- You're never going to believe this, but ...
- You can't imagine what happened then!
- I have wonderful news for you.
- I'm pleased to inform you that ...
- There's a bit of a problem.
- I don't like to be the bearer of bad news, but ...

### Responding to Good News

- You can't be serious!
- Who'd have ever thought!
- I can't believe this!
- Wow! That's fantastic!
- Congratulations!
- You're joking!
- That's incredible!
- That's very good news indeed!

### Responding to Bad News

- Oh, no!
- That's terrible/awful/horrible!
- Oh, what a pity.
- Oh, my. That's a shame.

c. Which of the phrases are formal and which are informal?

d. Look at the phrases from Ex. 11b again. With a partner, act out dialogues similar to the ones you heard in Ex. 11a, giving and responding to news. Base your dialogues on some of the following situations.

- passing/failing an examination
- losing/winning a match/competition
- a disastrous holiday
- meeting an old friend you had lost touch with
- reading about someone you know in the newspaper
- damaging/losing something
- getting a job
- being promoted/fired
- getting into university

A: *I'm afraid I've got some bad news.*

B: *Oh, no. What's the matter?*

A: *I've just got my chemistry exam results, and I've failed.*

B: *Oh, what a pity. And you worked so hard for it.*

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## Collocations

6 a. Tick (✓) the boxes in the table to form collocations. Think of at least two more phrases for each verb.

get	gain	win	earn	
				control of a situation
				promotion
				the title
				sb's respect
				a reputation
				the right to do/have sth
				experience
				a salary
				one's living
				the advantage

b. Now use some of the collocations in their correct form to complete the sentences below.

- 1 The heavyweight champion ..... over his opponent in the last round of the match.
- 2 She went to work in a restaurant to ..... as a chef.
- 3 Although he's incredibly wealthy now, when he first came to this country he ..... as a dish washer.
- 4 He's very well-paid for his freelance writing but he also ..... from the bookshop where he works.
- 5 She ..... as a tough businesswoman by sticking to her principles and never backing down from the competition.



## Fixed Phrases (phrases with *on*)

7 a. Match the fixed phrases with their meanings.

a on the off-chance	1	working
b on second thoughts	2	just in case
c on a whim	3	due to a belief
d on a budget	4	impulsively
e on principle	5	after re-consideration
f on one's own	6	intentionally
g on target	7	as planned
h on duty	8	only if
i on purpose	9	independently
j on condition that	10	with a limited amount of money

b. Now, use the fixed phrases to fill in the gaps in the sentences.

- 1 I don't think there is a vacancy in the company at the moment, but you could ring my boss *on the off-chance*.
- 2 I think I'll take Sarah to a fancy restaurant for her birthday ..... let's have a surprise party at home.
- 3 Chris owns a line of successful boutiques in the UK and believe it or not, she manages them completely .....
- 4 We're pleased to announce that our proposed sales figures for the year are right .....
- 5 I'd love to go to the house-warming party with you but I'm ..... and really can't afford a gift.



## Phrasal Verbs



8 Match the verbs with the particles to form phrasal verbs and use them in the correct tense to complete the sentences below. Then explain the phrasal verbs in your own words.



- 1 Her employer's persistent enthusiasm for the new scheme ..... her resistance to it.
- 2 A trainee ..... his superior's orders quickly and efficiently.
- 3 The minister ..... with the ceremony despite the noise from the back of the church.
- 4 At a very young age she determined what her career goals were and set out to ..... them.
- 5 Unfortunately, the difficulties he was having at work ..... into his personal life.
- 6 After the shock of being made head manager slowly ..... , James went about settling the difficulties between members of his staff.
- 7 As the day ..... the graduate became more and more excited about the upcoming ceremony.
- 8 The champion runner liked to joke that he ..... over a hundred pairs of trainers before he won his title.
- 9 To everyone's disbelief, the Jamaicans ..... the trophy in the men's bob-sledding event.
- 10 ..... you'll be able to polish off the knob.

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## Career Success

4 a. Look at the following factors which may be important for career success. Tick (✓) a maximum of *three* in each group which you consider absolutely necessary.



### background

- social background • financial backing
- influential acquaintances • well-rounded education
- relevant experience
- qualifications • supportive family
- experience of other cultures

### people skills

- positive image • popularity among colleagues
- sensitivity to others' feelings • team spirit
- competitive spirit • ability to delegate
- willingness to compromise
- having contact with superiors

### other personal qualities

- ability to seize opportunities • ambition
- determination • resilience
- powers of intuition • persistence
- enjoy challenges • attractive appearance
- charisma • self-motivation
- natural talent • ruthlessness
- foresight

b. Compare your choices with a partner, saying in what situations you feel that the factors you ticked can play a vital part.

A: If you are in a profession that involves dealing with people, a positive image can make them like you and trust you.

B: I know what you mean. I've also ticked 'popularity' because if you are popular in the workplace, colleagues are glad to help you or work with you.

c. Read the short biography of Steve Jobs below.

Which of the qualities in Ex. 4a did he have?

Which didn't he have?

Steven Paul Jobs was born in California, USA, on 24 February, 1955. In 1974 he dropped out of college to work as a video game designer. His aim was to save enough money to go to India and experience Buddhism.

Back in the US in the autumn of 1974, Jobs went into business with his high-school friend Stephen Wozniak. Jobs understood that computers would appeal to a broad audience. Although he had long, unkempt hair and dressed casually, he managed to obtain finance for his first marketable computer, the Apple II, in 1976. Apple Inc. was formed and met with immediate success.

Seven years later, Jobs introduced the Macintosh computer in a brilliantly choreographed demonstration that he gave himself. However, the sales of the first Macs were disappointing. This led to tensions in the company, and in 1985 he resigned.

In 1986, Jobs bought Pixar Animation Studios. Over the following decade he built Pixar into a large corporation that, among other achievements, produced the first full-length film to be completely computer-animated, *Toy Story*, in 1995.

In late 1996, Apple, saddled by huge financial losses and on the verge of collapse, asked Jobs to come back. He accepted, and quickly engineered an award-winning advertising campaign that urged customers to "think different" and buy Macintoshes. In 1998, he introduced the iMac, an egg-shaped computer that offered high-speed processing at a reasonable price. It was an instant success. Steve Jobs had saved his company and, in the process, re-established himself as a master high-technology marketer.

d. Which of the qualities from Ex. 4a do you believe you have? Tell your partner.

## Words often Confused

5 Underline the correct word.

- 1 The idea for a computerised house had first been considered as far *beyond/before/behind/back* as the late 50s.
- 2 For the *purpose/object/aim/intention* of managing your finances, hiring an accountant is money well-spent.
- 3 Situated *direct/precise/right/exact* beside the lake, the villa has gone on sale for £750,000.
- 4 The in-house regulations *happen/occur/apply/agree* to all employees, regardless of status.
- 5 A job advertisement for a programmer *grinned/caught/seized/struck* his eye, and he decided to apply.
- 6 For a 10-year-old car, it is in *excellent state/form/condition*.