

Success and failure

1 Complete the sentences with the verbs in the box.

fulfilled gave made messed
miss realized



- I love travelling. I never _____ an opportunity to explore a new country.
- After a lot of hard work, Maria _____ her ambition to become a vet.
- She finally _____ it as a singer, with songs like 'You and me forever' and 'My love'.
- Eventually, he _____ his dreams and became a pilot.
- In the end, she _____ up trying to get the car to start and got the bus instead.
- Unfortunately, George _____ up the interview and didn't get the job.

2 Put the letters in order and write the words.

- Unfortunately, things didn't go to _____, and she failed to get into university. (lanp)
- There were one or two problems, but luckily, we managed to _____ them. (veroceom)
- Something went _____ with the engine, and the boat suddenly stopped. (worgn)
- Anyway, things _____ out well for Sara in the end, and she got the job. (rutden)
- I'm pleased to say my plan _____, and everyone got there on time. (rowdek)
- He's been trying to learn Chinese for years, but he's _____ to make much progress so far. (laifde)

Collocations: do, make, take

3 Choose the correct answers.

- She's *doing* / *making* really well at college.
- While I was in Oxford, I *did* / *took* the opportunity to look around the city centre.
- Getting out in the fresh air *makes* / *does* you good.
- She *made* / *took* a fortune selling electronic goods.
- Could you *do* / *make* sure the door is locked when you leave, please?
- I'd love to get rid of my car, but unfortunately, I can't *make* / *do* without it.
- Surely it *makes* / *takes* sense to buy a bigger tent if five people are going to use it?
- She needs to *do* / *take* control of her finances.
- Could we all *make* / *do* an effort to keep the kitchen a bit cleaner, please?



» FAST FINISHER

4 Choose the correct sentences.

- Daniel takes his studies very seriously.
 - Daniel makes his studies very seriously.
- She finally overcame her ambition to become a dancer.
 - She finally realized her ambition to become a dancer.
- Why don't you make some time off and go away for a few days?
 - Why don't you take some time off and go away for a few days?
- Unfortunately, things didn't go to plan, and we were late for the show.
 - Unfortunately, things didn't work to plan, and we were late for the show.
- Take a break. It will make you good!
 - Take a break. It will do you good!

What is success anyway?

1 Read the text and answer the questions. You don't need to write complete sentences.

- 1 What did the author use to associate with 'success'? _____
- 2 What jobs do the author's friends do? _____
- 3 What time would the TV presenter get up in her previous job? _____
- 4 Why does the teacher think he's successful? _____

WHAT IS SUCCESS?

by Jamie Smith

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A few years ago, when I heard the word 'success', I'd think about a wealthy businessperson who owned several homes and a private plane, or perhaps the director of a huge company. Like a lot of people, I used to associate success with money and power. But things are starting to change for me, and I think for a lot of other people too.

Take, for example, a friend of mine who's a successful TV presenter. Recently, she refused the offer of a fantastic job in daytime TV. I asked her why she'd decided not to take this opportunity. She explained that the job meant working 50 hours a week, which she simply wasn't prepared to do anymore. She'd spent her twenties working all hours. She'd get up at four o'clock every morning to start her working day, and by the time she got home, her husband had gone to bed. She was, she said, permanently exhausted and actually quite lonely: 'It was ridiculous – I'd spend all this time with my work colleagues but never see the people I loved. I had plenty of money but no time to spend it. And *what's* the point of that?'

An American friend recently told me that he considers himself to be successful not because he

earns a fortune (he doesn't – he's a teacher!) but because he's 'healthy and happy, with some really good friends'. Another friend – also American – gave up a very lucrative job in the fashion industry because she started to hate the fact that it was damaging the environment. She'd been working for the same company for ten years, and one morning she woke up and realized that she couldn't continue. She was earning all this money to improve her own life, but the work that she was doing was spoiling other people's lives. It didn't make sense. That friend now owns a company that makes bags from recycled fishing nets. She earns a lot less but considers herself to be more successful. What does success mean to you? I'd love to hear your thoughts ...



2 Read the text again and write true (T), false (F) or doesn't say (DS).

- 1 The author's idea of what success means is changing. _____
- 2 The TV presenter friend didn't want to work 40 hours a week. _____
- 3 The TV presenter didn't use to have holidays. _____
- 4 His teacher friend is rich. _____
- 5 A friend left her fashion job because she had to work too many hours. _____

3 Which part of the text do you agree with most? Compare your answer with a partner.

4 COMPARE CULTURES Answer the questions.

- In your country, do people associate success with money and power or with happiness, health and being free?
- Do you think this is changing? If it is, how is it changing?
- What do you think it means to be successful?