

TRY, TRY AND TRY AGAIN

When you become a teenager, people start asking you about your future. Do you want to go to university? What are your goals and ambitions? For a lot of people, these questions are difficult to answer. You need to know what you want. Do you want to be rich? Do you want to make a difference? Once you decide what you want to do, it isn't always easy to do it. You don't always get your dream job immediately. However, the important thing is to believe in yourself and keep trying until you succeed.



James Dyson is one person who thinks this way. He had an idea for a totally new kind of vacuum cleaner (a machine that cleans up dust) in the 1970s. However, it was only after many years and over 5,000 different prototypes that he finally made a vacuum cleaner that worked properly. Then, he couldn't find a company to sell it in the UK. However, he didn't give up. He started his own company. Two years later, his machine was the best-selling vacuum cleaner in the UK. Now, he runs a multimillion-pound company that sells many different products. He strongly believes that failure leads to success because failure makes you more creative.

Katy Perry is another example. She's a successful pop star now, but it wasn't easy at first. When she was nine, she was having singing lessons, and she learned to play the guitar at 13. In 2001, when she was 17, she recorded a gospel music album, but when it went on sale, it only sold 100 copies. She then moved to Los Angeles but for five years record companies didn't want to produce her music. Then in 2008, she finally had her first hit single – and now look at her! You can download her songs everywhere. This shows that you can succeed if you keep trying.

Walt Disney was also determined to succeed. He lost one of his first jobs in 1919 when his boss told him he had no imagination. Just three years later, he started his own studio and made a short film, but he closed the business a year later because of money problems. However, he felt proud of his first film and it was popular, so he started another company in Hollywood. At first, the new company wasn't making much money and life was hard. Finally, when Disney's first *Mickey Mouse* cartoon came out in 1928, the company became extremely successful. Walt Disney showed the world that dreams can come true.



These people demonstrate that you *can* do what you want. You just need to be willing to try hard and remember the saying, 'If at first you don't succeed, try, try again.'

The longer read

- 1 Look at the title and the pictures. What do you think links the pictures? Tick (✓) which topics you think you will read about. Read the text for gist and check your answers.

- being famous
 cartoons
 making money
 pop singers
 getting good grades
 housework

Subskill: Finding answers in a text

Some questions may be confusing so read them carefully. For example, they may use the same words as the text but have the opposite meaning because they use a negative. Or they may use different words but have a similar meaning.

- 2 Read the sentences. Read the text and underline the phrases that have a similar meaning to the underlined phrases below.

- 1 James Dyson finally made an acceptable vacuum cleaner after a long time and many unsuccessful models.
- 2 Today, James Dyson has a very successful business that sells all kinds of machines.
- 3 When Katy Perry's first album went on sale, it didn't sell very many copies.
- 4 When Katy moved to Los Angeles, record companies were not willing to record her music.
- 5 Walt Disney lost one of his first jobs because his manager said he wasn't creative enough.
- 6 The first few years in Hollywood weren't easy for the new Disney company.

- 3 Choose the correct option.

- 1 Who is now the leader of a very successful business? **Perry/Dyson/both**
- 2 Who couldn't find a record company to work with for several years? **Disney/Perry/both**
- 3 Who thinks that failure is a good thing because it makes you more creative? **Dyson/Disney/both**
- 4 Who had to close their first company after a year? **Dyson/Disney/both**
- 5 Whose first album was not very successful? **Disney/Perry/both**
- 6 Who believed that dreams could become reality? **Disney/Perry/both**

- 4 **Word work** Complete the sentences with the underlined words from the text.

- 1 At first, no one liked her stories, but she wanted to be a writer, so she didn't _____ and two years later, she sold her first story.
- 2 I have two _____. One is to become a doctor and the other is to work in Africa.
- 3 The homework was difficult but we were _____ to finish it and show the teacher we could do it.
- 4 Please can you _____ how you make this cake?
- 5 She hopes her new business will _____ because one day she wants to be rich.
- 6 Their new electric car was a complete _____ – nobody wanted to buy it.

- 5 Answer the questions for you.

- 1 Do you agree with James Dyson that sometimes failure can be a positive thing? Why/Why not?

- 2 Do you know someone who took a long time to achieve their goal? Give details.

