

Teacher's Guide

Learning Through Failure - Upper-intermediate (B2-C1)

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Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQx39z99_Js



Warm-up

Part 1. Students read the statements and say if they agree, disagree, or are not sure. Encourage students to support their opinion using examples or experiences.

Part 2. Students read the four quotes, choose one that resonates with them and discuss the questions.

Vocabulary

Part 1. Students match each expression to its correct definition.

Answer key:

1. Admit shortcomings
2. Take a calculated risk
3. Sink into despair
4. Fall short of a goal
5. Gain experience
6. Pursue an idea

Part 2. Students complete each sentence using one of the expressions.

Answer key:

1. Fell short of a goal
2. Sank into despair
3. Admit shortcomings
4. Gain experience
5. Pursue an idea
6. Take a calculated risk

Part 3. Students complete the sentences with their own ideas.

Video activity

Part 1. Before watching the video, students discuss the questions.

Part 2. Students watch the first part of the video, up to where the speaker explains how writing a bad novel changed their view of failure (0:00-0:45).

Part 3. Students discuss the questions.

Answer key:

1. To create a quality piece of art with their first novel.
2. Because the finished novel was *“absolutely terrible”* and *fell short of that goal*, so they judged it as a total failure.
3. They realised that writing the bad novel taught them *more about writing and storytelling than anything else*, which made them reconsider the value of failure.

Part 4. Students watch the second part of the video (0:45 to the end).

Part 5. Students match the experiences from the video with their outcomes.

1. B
2. C
3. A
4. D

Speaking

Part 1. Students read statements and say if they agree or disagree. Encourage students to support their opinion using examples or experiences.

Part 2. For each pair, students choose the sentence they agree with more.

Part 3. Students complete the sentences with their own ideas.

Reflection

Students discuss the questions.