

Vocabulary

Pick up: to get information or a skill by chance rather than by making a deliberate effort. E.g. to pick up bad habits. Here's a tip I picked up from my mother. She picked up Spanish when she was living in Mexico. Where did you pick up that idea?

Daunting: to make somebody feel nervous and less confident about doing something. Intimidating. E.g. She has the **daunting task** of cooking for 20 people every day.

Harbour: to have in mind a thought or feeling, usually over a long period. Sp. albergar.

Dismal: very bad. E.g. Their recent attempt to increase sales has been a **dismal failure**.

Useful language to describe the pictures

She is talking to a priest.

She is wearing a **polka dot dress**

The man is wearing **slippers**.

He is **going bald**.

He has a **receding hairline**

He also has some **stubble** on his face.

Couch /kaʊtʃ/

Lie (lying) lay lain (intransitive verb). E.g. He is lying on the couch

Lay laid laid (transitive verb). E.g. They are **laying** the **rubber ring** on the ground.

They are **dragging** the rubber ring down the lake.

They are wearing **life vests**

They are using **ropes** and **wooden sticks** for tying or pulling the rubber rings

They are **climbing poles**

They are wearing **helmets**

They are wearing a **harness** /'hɑ:(r)nɪs/ around their **waists**

dump: a place where waste or rubbish/garbage is taken and left

rubbish dump

a toxic/nuclear waste dump

tip: a place where you can take rubbish/garbage and leave it

landfill: an area of land where large amounts of waste material are buried under the earth. E.g. The map shows the position of the new landfills. a landfill site

Glass recycling

Bottle labels

Cans

Jars

Wind farm

Wind turbine

solar panels

solar power

renewable sources of energy

Striped suit and tie

Landline phone

The man sitting at the desk might be his boss.

Useful language to discuss the topic:

1. Challenges

It **posed a challenge** (to create a challenge that has to be dealt with)

It was a **major challenge**

I had to **confront a big problem**

I was a little **apprehensive** /,æprɪ'hensɪv/(worried or frightened) about the effects of what I had done

I felt **a bit tense** (nervous or worried)at first

He was always **on edge** (nervous) before an interview

This year for my **New Year's resolution** I decided I had to listen to others better.

In the past few years, I **fell into the occasional bad habit of** not listening closely enough to family and friends. I was aware of this, and I wanted to do my best to listen better. **It became a major challenge at first** but now, a couple of months later I must say I don't have to make an effort anymore and I am actually enjoying it.

Last year I decided to complete my master's degree. Now, a year later, I believe I **rose to the challenge**, and it has given me the confidence to **embark on the next stage in my career**

(If someone **risers to the challenge**, they act in response to a difficult situation which is new to them and are successful).

It was a challenge and it was **daunting** but at least I tried

I anticipated myself making some **major changes** in my life. This would be the year that I would finally **attain some of the goals** that would be personal achievements.

For the first time in my life, I knew what I wanted to do and I **intended to go for it**.

That was something that I felt was right, with every bone in my body. **Everything just fell into place naturally**. It is funny how everything becomes brighter and clearer when you have a vision for it.

2. Ambitions

My **main ambition** was...

I had always **pursued my greatest ambition**

To **pursue his personal ambition**, he decided to **leave everything behind** and go on an around the world trip.

I wanted to **realize my secret ambition** as soon as possible.

3. Motivation

I had to **strengthen my motivation**

A lot has been said about how to **increase students' motivation**.

High school students **lack motivation** in the classroom for various reasons. Sometimes students lack role models. They don't have relatives who they can **look up to**. And **on top of that** they are **constantly targeted by non-academic celebrities** or negative role models through the media.

4. Failure

It was **doomed to failure** from the start

It was a **dismal failure**

I was **close to tears**.

I was feeling **weepy** (sad)

I was **reluctant to resign to failure**.

I started a small business thinking it would be a **shining moment in my life** but, without proper planning, after a few months it was a **dismal failure**.

debacle: /deɪ'ba:kl/ /dɪ'ba:kl/

an event or a situation that is a complete failure and causes embarrassment. E.g. He should take responsibility for the debacle and resign. Let's hope this is the end of the debacle over player transfer fees. It's a total debacle

5. Success

It was an **overnight success**

It was a **resounding success** (very great)

It was a **roaring success (tremendous)**

I was **assured of success**

It was an **outstanding achievement**

It was a **remarkable achievement** at first

To **achieve success**, a film should...

The book **met with success** in Great Britain, but at first no one in the United States wanted to publish it.

A book's popularity doesn't always **guarantee its movie's success**.

The song was a **resounding success**. It became a **Christmas hit** that year, which was the beginning of a **triumphal march** around the world.

I was **delighted** that he could do it

I was **elated** /i'leɪtɪd/ (very happy) by the prospect of the new job ahead

She was **thrilled to bits** (= extremely pleased) that he'd been offered the job

He was **overjoyed** (extremely happy) at my success

The English Department is **astounded**, amazed, **taken aback**, rocked back on its heels, **flabbergasted**, **dumbfounded**, **stunned**, shocked, astonished, **bowled over** and **staggered** that we have such wonderful students...

set (or rock) someone back on their heels: astonish or disconcert someone. E.g. she said something that rocked me back on my heels