Failure & Success

**Success is making the best of what you have and finding satisfaction, peace and happiness in your accomplishments. Failure is achieving success without being able to pay the rent. *(Joe Martin, in Willy ‘N Ethel comic strip)***

**I can take any amount of success, but would prefer my failures in smaller portions. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot-Shots)***

It is possible to fail in many ways, while to succeed is possible only in one way. *(Aristotle)*

**The greatest barrier to success is the fear of failure. *(Sven Goran Eriksson)***

**Even if we got Osama bin Laden tomorrow, said Ron Smith in the Baltimore Sun, he would have accomplished many of his goals. He baited the U.S. into invading Afghanistan – a war that still has no end in sight. By invading Iraq, George W. Bush gave al Qaida a bonus, plunging us into an ugly occupation that resulted to nearly 4,000 U.S. deaths, cost more than $700 billion, and “deepened anti-American sentiments among millions of Muslims.” Consider also the toll on America’s national character, said Kevin Drum in MotherJones.com. Our frightened leaders embraced torture, and a cowed population meekly accepted “intrusive security checks” that would have unthinkable a decade ago. “If what bin Laden got at the cost of 19 lives and a few box cutters was a failure, I’d hate to see what counts as a success.” *(The Week magazine, September 25, 2009)***

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I’d rather be a failure at something I enjoy than be a success at something I hate. *(George Burns)*

**I honestly think it is better to be a failure at something you love than to be a success at something you hate. *(George Burns)***

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**You said “but.” I’ve put my finger on the whole trouble. You’re a “but” man. Don’t say, “but.” That little word “but” is the difference between success and failure. Henry Ford said, “I’m going to invent the automobile,” and Arthur T. Flanken said, “But. . . .” *(Sgt. Ernie Bilko, The Phil Silvers Show)***

**Failure is the condiment that gives success its flavor. *(Truman Capote, in The Dogs Bark)***

**Your past failures will always overtake you if you stop chasing after your future success! *(Tom Wilson, in Ziggy comic strip)***

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**Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm. *(Sir Winston Churchill)***

**Success isn’t final; failure isn’t fatal; it’s courage that counts. *(Winston Churchill)***

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**Success comes in cans, failure in can’ts. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The Continental Army failed in many campaigns before it succeeded in Cornwallis’s defeat at Yorktown. The Union Army suffered many defeats before General Grant was able to victoriously receive General Lee’s surrender at Appomattox. Every blessing that we enjoy – personal security, individual liberty, our free enterprise system, and our constitutional freedom – has been obtained through long apprenticeships of adversity. The right of existing as a nation has been accomplished only through ages of wars and horrors. It required four centuries of martyrdom to establish Christianity as one of the world’s great religions. *(Joe Griffith, in Speaker’s Library of Business, p. 13)***

**I don’t know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody. *(Bill Cosby)***

**Success is the culmination of failures, mistakes, false starts, confusion and the determination to keep going anyway. *(Nick Gleason, founder and CEO of CitySoft, a Web management and development firm)***

I don’t know what success is, but I know what failure is. Failure is trying to please everybody. *(Sammy Davis, Jr.)*

Success isn't permanent and failure isn't fatal. *(Mike Ditka)*

**Of every 100 drugs submitted to the Food and Drug Administration for screening, only 20 are ultimately cleared for sale. *(The Washington Post, as it appeared in The Week magazine, July 1, 2005)***

**Recovering from failure is often easier than building from success. *(Michael D. Eisner)***

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**Thomas Edison failed 24,999 times to invent the storage battery, only succeeding in that endeavor once. Fortunately, as Edison showed, we’re all measured by our successes more often than by our failures. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up. *(Thomas Edison)***

**Thomas A. Edison (1847-1931) America’s most prolific inventor, was granted 1,093 patents by the U.S. Patent office, more than anyone else--yet they included such duds as a perpetual cigar, furniture made of cement and a way of using goldenrod for rubber. *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Weird Inventions and Discoveries, p. 36)*  
Thomas Alva Edison spent $2 million on an invention that never materialized. However, his lifelong track record isn’t bad. *(Glenn Van Ekeren, in The Speaker’s Sourcebook, p. 150)***

I have not failed 700 times. I have not failed once. I have succeeded in proving that those 700 ways will not work. *(Thomas Edison)*

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Failure is success in progress. *(Albert Einstein)*

Police get usable fingerprints at only three out of 100 crime scenes*. (L. M. Boyd)*

Victory is sweetest when you’ve known defeat. *(Malcolm Forbes)*

**An executive died and went to Heaven. There he found all former executives separated into two groups – the failures in one hall and the successes in another. Around mealtime he entered the hall of those who failed and was surprised to find the occupants thin and hungry looking. When the angels began to serve dinner, large platters of delicious food were placed upon the table, but before anyone was seated another angel came along and strapped a long iron spoon to each executive’s arm. The long handle of the spoon was fastened to the wrists and biceps, making it impossible to bend the arm. As a result no one was able to lift the spoon to his mouth. Walking over to the hall of those who had succeeded, he was surprised to find them fit, well fed and healthy. Dinner was already on the table and an angel had just finished strapping the long iron spoons to the arms of the diners. Each man then dipped his spoon into the food and fed the man seated across from him. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**I cannot give you the formula for success, but I can give you the formula for failure – which is: Try to please everybody. *(Herbert Bayard Swope, American journalist)***

**Every failure I have considered my own, but every success has been shared. *(Michael J. Fox, actor)***

**A true friend is one who overlooks your failures and tolerates your successes. *(Doug Larson)***

**Past performance is usually a pretty good indication of a man’s future potential – but not always. In 1860 a thirty-eight-year old man was working as a handyman for his father, a leather merchant. He kept books, drove wagons, and handled hides for about $66 a month. Prior to this menial job the man had failed as a soldier, a farmer, and a real estate agent. Most of the people who knew him had written him off as a failure. Eight years later he was President of the United States The man was Ulysses S. Grant. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**The great dividing line between success and failure can be expressed in five words, “I did not have time.” *(Franklin Field)***

Success is the point of self-deception. Failure is the point of self-knowledge. *(Graham Greene)*

**The two hardest things in life to handle are success and failure. *(Reminisce magazine)***

**Don’t be discouraged by a failure. It can be a positive experience. Failure is, in a sense, the highway to success, inasmuch as every discovery of what is false leads us to seek earnestly after what is true, and every fresh experience points out some form of error which we shall afterwards carefully avoid. *(John Keats)***

**Failure is 99 percent failure. *(Soichiro Honda, founder Honda Motor Corporation)***

**There could be no honor in a sure success, but much mighszt be wrested from a sure defeat. *(T. E. Lawrence, English soldier and author)***

**Success is failure turned inside out, the silver tint of clouds of doubt. And you never can tell how close you are: it may be near when it seems afar. So stick to the fight when you’re hardest hit. It’s when things seem worst that you mustn’t quit. *(George Webster Douglas)***

Out of respect for things that I was never destined to do, I have learned that my strengths are a result of my weaknesses, my success is due to my failures and my style is directly related to my limitations. *(Billy Joel)*

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**One November night, Michael Jordan and I found ourselves alone, and he told me about being cut as a sophomore from his high-school basketball team in Wilmington, N. C. “The day the cut list was going up, a friend -- Leroy Smith -- and I went to the gym to look together,” Jordan recalled. “If your name was on the list, you made the team. Leroy’s name was there, and mine wasn’t. I went through the day numb. After school, I hurried home, closed the door to my room and cried so hard. It was all I wanted -- to play on that team.” *(Bob Greene, in Reader’s Digest)***

I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times, I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed. *(Michael Jordan, basketball legend)*

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\** It takes as much courage to have tried and failed as it does to have tried and succeeded. *(Anne Morrow Lindbergh)***

**Winning is a habit; unfortunately, so is losing. *(Vince Lombardi)***

An act of love that fails is just as much a part of the divine love as an act of love that succeeds. For love is measured by its fullness and not by its reception. *(Harold Loukes)*

Success is simply a matter of luck. Ask any failure. *(Earl Wilson)*

Success is an amazing amount of the time, a positive manipulation of failure. *(Bits & Pieces)*

Success has many fathers; failure is a mother. *(Jeanne Phillips)*

Success is simply a matter of luck. Ask any failure. *(Earl Wilson)*

Success is not measured by your victories, but by your recovery from your failures. *(Vic Preisser)*

**It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation. *(Herman Melville)***

Success or failure in business is caused more by the mental attitude than by mental capacities. *(Walter Dill Scott)*

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Failure is never fatal and success is never final. *(Bits & Pieces)*

**Hope, can be increased and fears decreased when you keep in mind that failure, like success, is never fatal. God always has new experiences and surprises in store for us. Often what appears to be the end is, in the hands of God, a new beginning. *(Victor M. Parachin, in Unity magazine)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Success is not permanent. The same is also true of failure. *(Quoted in Dell Crossword Puzzles)***

**Success always occurs in private, and failure in full view. *(Rocky Mountain News)***

Success and failure are not true opposites and they’re not even in the same class; they’re not even a couch and a chair. *(Lillian Hellman, American author and playwright)*

Success is never fatal, but failure can be. *(Bill Parcells, in Finding a Way to Win)*

You must pay for what you want. Temporary failure may be the price. If it occurs, accept it and move on. The absence of failure suggests a minimum of effort, and the likelihood that little will be achieved. In many cases failure can occur despite genuine effort. In such cases failure may be the next best thing to success. *(Bits & Pieces)*

Come what may, we can push on, rise up no matter how many times we fall down, and turn even failure into success. *(James Dillet Freeman)*

Every success I know has been reached because the person was able to analyze defeat and actually profit by it in the next undertaking. (*William Marston, in Take Your Profits from Defeat)*

In 1913, Fred W. Wolf Jr. of Chicago began manufacturing the Domelre, or the DOMestic ELectric REfrigerator, the first electric refrigerator designed for use in the home. While his model was a flop, one of his innovations – the ice cube tray – caught on and was included in his competitors’ models. *(American Profile magazine)*

It isn’t defeat that makes us fail; it is our refusal to see in the defeat the guide and incentive to success. *(Victor Knowles)*

Failure is not the only punishment for laziness; there is also the success of others. *(Jules Renard, French author)*

**In his classic work The Book of Failures, Stephen Pile shares an unforgettable story. In 1978, during the firefighters’ strike in England, the British army had taken over emergency firefighting. This made possible one of the greatest animal rescue attempts of all time. On January 14, the army was called to assist an elderly woman in south London retrieve her cat. Responding immediately in the call, they cleverly and carefully rescued the cat, and celebrated their triumphant victory. As they started to drive away, the lady insisted that this battalion of heroes stay for tea. Driving away later with warm farewells and festive spirits, they ran over the cat and killed it. *(Glenn Van Ekeren, in The Speaker’s Sourcebook, p. 149)***

You always pass failure on the way to success. *(Mickey Rooney)*

Success is a public affair. Failure is a private funeral. (*Rosalind Russell, actress)*

Babe Ruth, besides holding the world lifetime record for home runs up to the 1970s, holds the world record for strikeouts as well. *(David Louis, in Fascinating Facts, p. 143)*

Success is sometimes a series of failures held together by the strong strands of determination and persistence. *(William Arthur Ward)*

Success covers a multitude of blunders. *(Bernard Shaw)*

**Success is not forever, and failure is not fatal. *(Don Shula with Ken Blanchard, in Everyone’s a Coach)***

**Success is simply a matter of luck. Ask any failure. *(Earl Wilson)***

I always turn to the sports page first. The sports page records people’s accomplishments; the front page nothing but man’s failure. *(Earl Warren, chief justice of the United States)*

Mark Twain made a fortune as a writer but lost it all as an unsuccessful inventor. *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Book of Chance, p. 329)*

The United States greatest naval victory – Midway – occurred only six months after its greatest naval defeat – Pearl Harbor. *(Boyd’s Curiosity Shop, p. 161)*

About George Washington: Military battles – lost more than he won. *(World Features Syndicate)*

**George Washington lived in the day of the Duke of Wellington and Napoleon, both of whom far outshone him as military geniuses. He made some rather tragic blunders on the battlefield but somehow managed to bring our troops through that long and painful war to victory. *(Dr. D. James Kennedy)***

**If you want to succeed, double your failure rate. *(Thomas J. Watson, IBM founder)***

**Success takes you away from what you know, while failure condemns you to it. *(Rachel Cusk, author)***

**Baseball is the only field of endeavor where a man can succeed three times out of 10 and be considered a good performer. *(Ted Williams, Hall of Famer)***

**Success and failure are equally disastrous. *(Tennessee Williams)***

Good people are good because they’ve come to wisdom through failure. We get very little wisdom from success, you know. *(William Saroyan, playwright)*

Success loves a witness, but failure can’t exist without one. *(Junot Diaz)*

A word of encouragement during a failure is worth more than a whole book of praise after a success. *(Bits & Pieces)*

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