**Failure**

**Charles Knight, chief executive officer of Emerson Electric, shared these thoughts concerning the existence of failure in management: “You need the ability to fail. I’m amazed at the number of organizations that set up an environment where they do not permit their people to be wrong. You cannot innovate unless you are willing to accept some mistakes.” *(Glenn Van Ekeren, in The Speaker’s Sourcebook, p. 155)***

**A 1929 super airliner planned by industrial designer Norman Bel Geddes, but never constructed, was to weigh 700 tons, have 20 engines, accommodations for 451 passengers and a crew of 155, fly at 90 mph and cross the Atlantic 3 times a week! The cost of $9,000,000 was prohibitive to investors. *(Ripley’s Believe It or Not!: Weird Inventions and Discoveries, p. 20)***

**It is the individual who is not interested in his fellow man who has the greatest difficulties in life and provides the greatest injury to others. It is from among such individuals that all human failures spring. *(Alfred Adler)***

**Even though the Apple Watch continues to be dogged by the impression that it is a disappointment, Apple sold an estimated 12 million Watches in the device's first year on the market. By comparison, the company sold 6 million iPhones in 2007, that device's debut year. *(The Wall Street Journal, as it appeared in The Week magazine, May 6, 2016)***

**What’s the biggest individual bankruptcy loss of record? That of a Kuwaiti passport clerk named Jassim Mutawa, research suggests. During the Middle East oil boom, he put together a fortune of $38 billion. When Kuwait’s stock market collapsed in 1982, he wound up $25 billion in debt. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**For many people, the word “failure” carries with it a sense of finality. But for the successful leader, failure is a beginning, the springboard to renewed efforts. Leaders simply don’t think about failure. This became clear to us after we had interviewed and studied 90 successful men and women – executives, Senators, coaches and others – for our book on leadership. Indeed, those who lead don’t even use the word, relying on such synonyms as “mistake,” “false start” and “setback.” *(Warren Bennis & Burt Nanus, in Reader’s Digest)***

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**People aren't failures until they begin to blame somebody else. (*Bits & Pieces)***

**You fail all of the time. But you aren't a failure until you start blaming someone else. *(Bum Phillips, football coach)***

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**Ninety-nine percent of the failures come from people who have the habit of making excuses. *(George Washington Carver, American botanist)***

**Failure is unimportant. It takes courage to make a fool of yourself. *(Charlie Chaplin)***

**Failures are divided into two classes -- those who thought and never did, and those who did and never thought. *(John C. Salak)***

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**I'm a "what if" person. I have always felt that failure was a completely underrated experience. I have taken blows. I have had high moments. But I don't think the blows have ever hardened me. My enthusiasms are still big. *(Kevin Costner, an Academy Award winning actor, who has experienced both success and failure at the box office)***

**Failure doesn't kill you. It increases your desire to make something happen. *(Kevin Costner)***

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**Edison knew 1800 ways not to build a light bulb. One of Madame Curie’s failures was radium. Columbus thought he had discovered the East Indies. Freud had several big failures before he devised psychoanalysis. Rodgers and Hammerstein’s first collaboration bombed so badly that they didn’t get together again for years. The whole history of thought is filled with people who arrived at the “wrong” destinations. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Leonardo DiCaprio has been nominated for four Oscars, but has lost every time. After he failed to win the Best Actor award for The Wolf of Wall Street this week, he was widely mocked on Twitter alongside the hashtag "#PoorLeo." *(New York Daily News, as it appeared in The Week magazine, March 14, 2014)***

**Contrary to popular belief, most school dropouts are neither delinquents nor from broken homes, but boys who are poor readers and have failed in one or more subjects; in such cases, the schools seem to have failed them, rather than they the schools. *(Sydney Harris, Chicago Daily News)***

**Show me a good loser, and I’ll show you an idiot. *(Leo Durocher)***

**After many conquests, Amelia Earhart made the attempt to fly around the world, using the flight as a human flying laboratory. She never returned. Before her takeoff, she wrote to her husband, “Women must try to do things as men have tried. When they fail, their failure must be a challenge to others." *(Bits & Pieces)***

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**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)***

**I haven’t failed, I’ve found 10,000 ways that don’t work. *(Thomas Edison)***

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*Children should always pay attention to their elders, not because they are always right but because they have more experience being wrong. *(Ben Holden)***

**Failure is an event, never a person. *(William D. Brown, in Welcome Stress!)***

**We experience pain and difficulty as failure instead of saying. I will pass through this, everyone I have ever admired has passed through this, music has come out of this, literature has come out of it. *(Marilynne Robinson, novelist)***

**Anyone educated in today's school system knows that the lowest grade you can get is an F. The low-water mark, however, used to be represented by the letter E. When Mount Holyoke College administrators redesigned the grading system in 1898, professors worried that students would think the grade meant "excellent." F more obviously stands for "fail." *(Jacopo della Quercia, in Reader's Digest)***

**I like fall a lot better as a noun rather than a verb! *(Tom Wilson, in Ziggy comic strip)***

**Many of us fear failure to the point of being willing to settle for one of the truest forms of failure -- not trying at all. *(Dr. Nicole LaBeach, life coach)***

**“Mark Zuckerberg is a freak,” said Steven Bertoni. Not because he founded Facebook, the social network that’s now a half-billion members strong, or even because he’s worth $6.9 billion and, at the absurdly young age of 26, is “one of the most powerful people on the planet.” No, what really sets Zuckerberg apart from other successful entrepreneurs is that he got it right on the first try. Many other denizens of the Forbes 400 list of richest Americans stumbled through failure after failure before they created a successful business and struck it rich. The first store that Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton opened, for example, “went bust.” As for successful investors, about the only one who never had a bad year was Bernie Madoff – “until he got caught.” Even Apple knows failure. Its Newton tablet computer, launched in 1993, was a widely derided flop. “But in the Newton lies the DNA for Steve Jobs’ iPoid, iPhone, and the iPad.” The success stories on the rich list teach that failure is nothing to be afraid of. “Mistakes are the classroom of entrepreneurs.” *(The Week magazine, November 19, 2010)***

**Never confuse a single defeat with a final defeat. *(F. Scott Fitzgerald)***

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**One who fears failure limits his activities. Failure is only the opportunity to more intelligently begin again. *(Henry Ford)***

**Everyone agreed the Edsel was the car of the future, the automobile that had every chance to succeed. Named after Henry Ford's son, the model was the result of many years' work by the huge auto company. But it was brought out in 1957, when car sales across the country fell at the same time and the stock market took a sharp drop. The car itself had problems with oil leaks, faulty buttons and shoddy workmanship. Ford finally withdrew it in 1959 and lost more than $350 million. *(Ripley's Believe It or Not!: Book of Chance, p. 97)***

**Failure is only the opportunity to begin again more intelligently. *(Henry Ford)***

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**Benjamin Franklin said that early in life he decided that the reason so many people fail is because they have no plan. *(Charles Dickson, in New Realities magazine)***

**It sounds like a dubious aspiration, but one of the more pressing priorities for America this decade is to preserve our cherished freedom to fail. It has long been one of the pillars of this country’s exceptionalism. America allows its citizens room to fail – and if they don’t succeed, to try, try again. While the European Union publishes documents on “overcoming the stigma of business failure,” executives in Silicon Valley make their bygone start-ups the centerpieces of their resumes. But after the financial crisis of 2008, many Americans are no longer feeling so exceptional, and freedom to fail probably ranks right around freedom to remove your own appendix. That’s a pity, because failure is one of the most economically important tools we have. The goal shouldn’t be to eliminate failure; it should be to build a system resilient enough to withstand it. *(Megan McArdle, in Time)***

**Bill Gates, who regularly tempts failure at Microsoft, likes to hire people who have made mistakes. “It shows that they take risks,” he says. “The way people deal with things that go wrong is an indicator of how they deal with change.” *(Patricia Sellers, in Reader’s Digest)***

**A failure is a man who has blundered but is not able to cash in on the experience. *(Elbert Hubbard)***

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**If at first you don’t succeed – so much for skydiving. *(Henny Youngman)***

**A THOUGHT TO REMEMBER: If at first you don’t succeed, get ready to hear lots of advice. *(Reminisce magazine)***

**If at first you don’t succeed, hide all evidence that you ever tried. *(Billy Collins, poet)***

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**Incumbents who lost: John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Martin Van Buren, Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, William H. Taft, Herbert Hoover, Gerald Ford, and Jimmy Carter. *(World Features Syndicate)***

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**Credit for these fumbling attempts goes to Arthur Pedrick, the one-man think tank Basic Research Laboratories of Sussex, England. Between 1962 and 1977, he patented 162 inventions that never materialized on the commercial market. He must emphasize with Wendell Phillips’ classic comment: “What is defeat?  Nothing but education; nothing but the first step to something better.” *(Glenn Van Ekeren, in The Speaker’s Sourcebook)***

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**Cola-flavored JELL-O was introduced in 1942, but flopped and was discontinued within a year; other failed JELL-O flavors include celery, chocolate, coffee, and apple. *(Harry Bright & Harlan Briscoe, in So, Now You Know, p. 158)***

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**Virtually nothing comes out right the first time. Failures, repeated failures, are finger posts on the road to achievement. The only time you don’t fail is the last time you try something, and it works. One fails forward toward success. *(Charles F. Kettering)***

**In speaking of failure, Charles F. Kettering, the inventor, once pointed out that you can learn how to fail intelligently. “Once you’ve failed,” said Mr. Kettering, “analyze the problem and find out why, because each failure is one more step leading up to the cathedral of success. The only time you don’t want to fail is the last time you try.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

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**In a study of 90 leaders in business, politics, sports and the arts, many spoke of “false starts" but never of “failure." Disappointments spur greater resolve, growth or change. *(Charles A. Garfield, in Reader's Digest)***

**You always have to learn how to lose before you can win. You don't accept losing, but you've got to learn how to forget it and go out the next day and win ballgames. That's one of the traits of this ballclub. *(Billy Williams, baseball Hall-of-Famer)***

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**It’s the fear of failure that kills you, that kills artists. You’ve got to go down that alley and take those chances. *(Jack Lemmon)***

**Failure seldom stops you. What stops you is the fear of failure. *(Jack Lemmon)***

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**My great concern is not whether you have failed, but whether you are content with your failure. *(Abraham Lincoln)***

**The probability that we may fail in the struggle ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just. *(Abraham Lincoln)***

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**If you don’t miss a few planes during the year, you are spending too much time in airports. *(Paul C. Martin)***

**Of the 41 missions sent to Mars by various space agencies, 26 have failed. The failed spacecraft have blown up in Earth's atmosphere, gone awry or silent on the journey through space, crashed on Mars, or failed to operate after landing. *(The Economist, as it appeared in The Week magazine, August 17, 2012)***

**If you haven’t failed yet, you probably will. The rapid change that drives business today calls for action in the face of uncertainty -- which means occasional stumbles. Says Harvard Business School professor John Kotter: “I can imagine a group of executives 20 years ago discussing a candidate for a top job and saying, ‘This guy had a big failure when he was 32.’ Everyone else would say, ‘Yep, that's a bad sign.’ I can imagine that same group considering a candidate today and saying, ‘What worries me about this guy is that he's never failed.’” (Patricia Sellers, in Reader's Digest)**

**There is no failure except in no longer trying. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**A man may take to drink because he feels himself to be a failure, but then fail all the more completely because he drinks. *(George Orwell)***

**People may fail many times, but they become failures only when they begin to blame someone else. *(Bits & Pieces)***

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**William Smithburg, chairman of Quaker Oats, took responsibility for two “mistakes” – the acquisition of a video-game business he has since closed down, and a pet-accessory business he bought and then wrote off. Later he told his employees: “I want you to take risks. There isn’t one senior manager in this company who hasn’t been associated with a product that flopped. That includes me. It’s like learning to ski. If you’re not falling down, you’re not learning.” *(Warren Bennis & Burt Nanus, in Reader’s Digest)***

**Products that flopped:**

**Pepsi A.M. – breakfast soft drink**

**Hop ‘N’ Gator – beer and Gatorade mix**

**Chilly Bang! Bang! Juice – in pistol-shaped package**

**Hands Up! – kids’ soap in a can with toy gun on top**

**Bic Perfume -- $5 perfume cigarette lighter look-alike. *(World Features Syndicate)***

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**A man may fail many times but he won’t be a failure until he says that someone has pushed him. *(Elmer G. Letterman)***

**99 percent of all those who fail in life are not actually defeated; they simply quit. *(Paul J. Meyer, President of the Success Motivation Institute)***

**There is only one real failure in life that is possible, and that is not to be true to the best one knows. *(John Farar, Australian composer)***

**You fail . . . so what? I failed at a lot of things. My first record was horrible. *(John Mellencamp)***

**All research work is 99% failure, and if you succeed once you are in. If we are going to progress in any line, we must learn to fail intelligently, so we won’t become discouraged at the 99% failure. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**It's only when you risk failure that you discover things. When you play it safe, you're not expressing the utmost of your human experience. *(Lupita Nyong'O, Oscar-winning actress)***

**Rolls-Royce never admits that its cars break down. They simply "fail to proceed." *(UPI)***

**It is an unfortunate human failing that a full pocketbook often groans more loudly than an empty stomach. *(Franklin D. Roosevelt)***

**It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all. In which case, you fail by default. *(J. K. Rowling)***

**Flops are a part of life’s menu, and I’ve never been a girl to miss out on any of the courses. *(Rosalind Russell)***

**What would you attempt to do if you knew you could not fail? *(Dr. Robert Schuller)***

**If thou art a man, admire those who attempt great things, even though they fail. *(Seneca)***

**It was easier to say I couldn’t do something than to try it and fail. I’d created boundaries based on fear of failure. We do it all the time. Sometimes those boundaries are broken down by ourselves, sometimes they are broken down by a force greater than ourselves. *(Martin Short, whose acting career was in a rut until he had the revelation he could channel the way he was funny at parties into his onstage roles)***

**You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try. *(Beverly Sills)***

**Failure is a bruise, not a tattoo*. (John Sinclair)***

**Report is the U.S. Mint has locked away 334 million Susan B. Anthony dollars because nobody wants them. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker. Failure is delay, not defeat. It is a temporary detour, not a dead-end street. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Those who fail in life often pursue the path of least persistence. *(Quoted in Dubois County, Indiana, Herald)***

**In the game of life, it’s a good idea to have a few early losses, which relieve you of the pressure of trying to maintain an undefeated season. *(Lee Trevino, professional golfer)***

**Whenever I make a bum decision, I just go out and make another one. *(Harry Truman)***

**If you feel you have both feet planted on level ground, then the university has failed you. *(Robert F. Goheen)***

**You know that walking is simply continual falling. You stand on one foot and throw yourself forward, relying on the force of gravitation to bring your body into position to be caught by the other foot. Now if the force of gravitation should change, becoming less or greater or reversed in direction, the result would be disastrous. *(A Synoptic Study of the Teachings of Unity, p. 37)***

**Failure is more frequently from want of energy than want of capital. *(Daniel Webster)***

**You've failed many times, although you may not remember. You fell down the first time you tried to walk. You almost drowned the first time you tried to swim, didn't you? Did you hit the ball the first time you swung a bat? Heavy hitters, the ones who hit the most home runs, also strike out a lot. R. H. Macy failed seven times before his store in New York caught on. English novelist John Creasey got 753 rejection slips before he published 564 books. Babe Ruth struck out 1,330, but he also hit 714 home runs. Don't worry about failure. Worry about the chances you miss when you don't even try. *(United Technologies Corporation, as it appeared in The Wall Street Journal)***

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