

Unit 1



A - Attitude Is Altitude

**B - Every Success Story
Is Also a Story of Great Failures**

C - I Will Do It

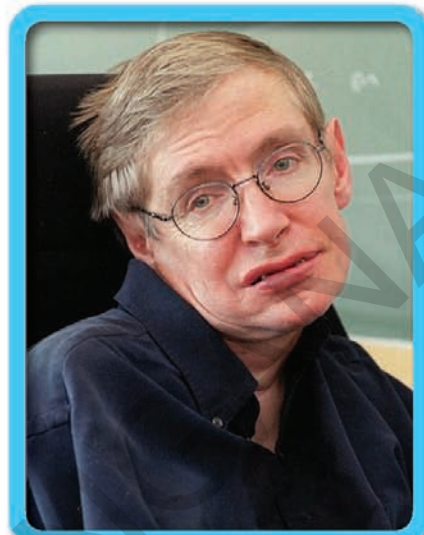
Personality Development

1. Personality Development

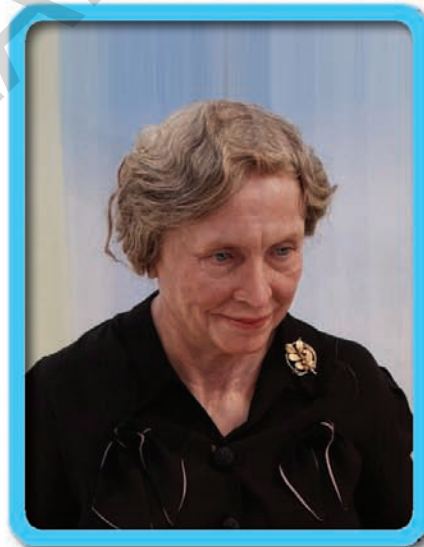
Look at the pictures and answer the questions.



Sudha Chandran



Stephen Hawking



Helen Keller

1. Do you know these people? What is their speciality?
2. What qualities do you think a person requires to become successful?
3. What is your opinion about the attitude of society towards individuals with special needs?

Oral Discourse: Discuss/debate/talk on - “Disability is not an obstacle for success”.

Attitude Is Altitude

Imagine having no arms to stretch in the morning, to help you scratch that itch, to allow you to wrap your arms around your loved ones. Imagine having no legs to kick pebbles down the street, to walk or run, to bicycle or skateboard, or get you from point A to point B. Then imagine both at once, which is what Nick Vujicic has faced his whole life. Have you heard something like this before?

Nick Vujicic was born with no arms and legs - but he doesn't let the details stop him. The brave 26-year-old — who is mainly a torso — plays football and golf, swims and surfs, despite having no limbs.

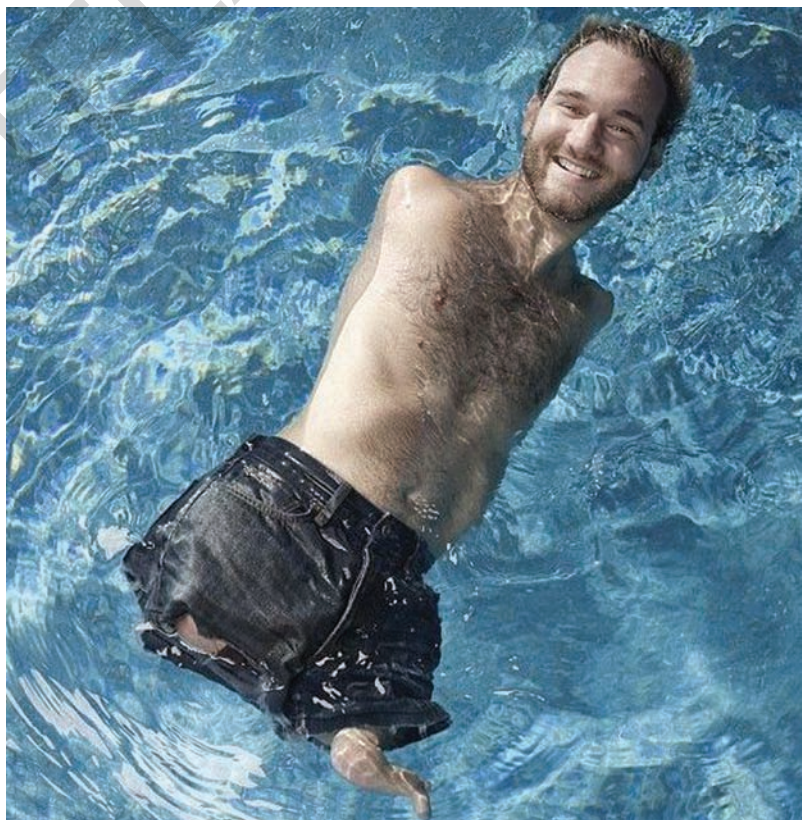
Nick has a small foot on his left hip which helps him balance and enables him to kick. He uses his one foot to type, write with a pen and pick things up between his toes.

'I call it my chicken drumstick,' joked Nick, who was born in Melbourne, Australia, but now lives in Los Angeles. 'I'd be lost without it.'

'He's very modest but he gets marriage proposals from women all the time,' said Nick's friend and publicist Steve Appel, from Los Angeles.

'He would love to get married and start a family but he's waiting for the right girl to come along.'

Water sports aren't Nick's only thing - he also plays golf with a club



tucked under his chin, and is a huge fan of the English Premier League.

His parents decided not to send him to a special school - a decision he said was very hard for him, but which may have been the best decision they could have made for him.

When Nick was born his father was so shocked that he left the hospital room to vomit. His distraught mother couldn't bring herself to hold him until he was four months old.

His disability came without any medical explanation - a rare occurrence called Phocomelia - and Nick and his parents spent many years asking why this cruel trick would happen to them. 'My mother was a nurse and she did everything right during pregnancy but she still blamed herself,' he said.

'It was so hard for them but right from the start they did their best to make me independent.'

'My dad put me in the water at 18 months and gave the courage to learn how to swim.'

'I also got really into football and skateboarding. I totally love the English Premier League.'

Nick's father was a computer programmer and accountant and he taught his little son how to type with his toe at just 6 years old. His mum invented a special plastic device that meant he could hold a pen and pencil.

Despite the risk of being bullied, his parents insisted Nick on attending mainstream school. 'It was the best decision they could have made for me,' adds Nick, who later achieved a degree in Financial Planning and Real Estate. 'It was very hard but it gave me independence.'

Nick, who was teased and bullied, had an electric wheelchair for mobility, and a team of carers to help him.

'I was deeply depressed when I was eight years old,' he said. 'I went to my mum crying and told her I wanted to kill myself.'

'I felt cold and bitter. I hated God for doing this to me and was terrified of what would

happen when my parents weren't there to look after me.'

'I could brush my own teeth with a wall mounted brush and wash my own hair with pump action soap, but there was so much that was impossible for me.'

At age ten Nick tried to drown himself in the bath but luckily the



attempt was unsuccessful. 'I felt there was no purpose when you lack purpose and strength. It is hard to hold on,' he said. But with the help of his religion, friends and family, Nick managed to pull through to become an international symbol of triumph over adversity.

'When I was 13, I read a newspaper article about a disabled man who had managed to achieve great things and helped others,' said Nick.

'I realised why God had made us like this - to give hope to others. It was so inspirational to me that I decided to use my life to encourage other people and give them the courage that the article had given me.'

'I decided to be thankful for what I do have, not get angry about what I don't.'

'I looked at myself in the mirror and said: 'You know what the world is right that I have no arms or legs, but they'll never take away the beauty of my eyes.' I wanted to concentrate on something good that I had.'

"The challenges in our lives are there to strengthen our convictions. They are not there to run us over", said Nick. In 1990 Nick won the Australian Young Citizen of the Year award for his bravery and perseverance.

'And once I was in a car and a girl at traffic lights was looking at me interestingly. She could only see my head so I decided to do a 360 degree spin in the car seat to freak her out. Her face was like woaaaaaaah what is going on? She sped off really quickly.'

Nick began travelling the world and in 2008 he went to Hawaii and met surfing master Bethany Hamilton, who had her arm bitten off by a shark when she was 12.

'She was amazing,' said Nick. 'She taught me how to surf and I was terrified at first, but once I got up there it felt absolutely fantastic and I caught some waves pretty well.' Nick quickly learned how to do the 360 degree spins on his board - a feat that got him on the cover of Surfer magazine within 48 hours. 'No one has ever done that in the history of surfing,' he said. 'But I have a very low centre of gravity so I've got pretty good balance.'





Nick's speech at a stadium



Nick playing golf

He has visited different countries all over the world. The football fan is now a motivational speaker and has travelled over 24 countries speaking to groups of up to 110,000 people.

He moved to Los Angeles two years ago in 2007 and plans to continue to travel the world.

"If I fail, I try again, and again, and again. If you fail, are you going to try again? The human spirit can handle much worse than we realize. It matters how you are going to finish. Are you going to finish strong?" said Nick

'I tell people to keep on getting up when they fall and to always love themselves,' he said.

'If I can encourage just one person then my job in this life is done.'

- <http://www.dailymail.co.uk>

1st July, 2009

Body structure and looks are inborn. We did not choose or 'make' our body. We need not take pride or feel ashamed of our looks or body structure. Pride or shame comes from our behaviour. We respect people, and people, respect us for our skills, behaviour and qualities.

Glossary

- | | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| skateboard (n) | : | a short narrow board with small wheels at each end, which you stand on and ride as a sport |
| surf (v) | : | to take part in the sport of riding on waves on a surfboard |
| torso (n) | : | the main part of the body, not including the head, arms, or legs |

- chicken drumstick (*n*) : the lower part of the leg of a chicken or other bird that is cooked and eaten as food
- club (*n*) : a heavy stick with one end thicker than the other
- adversity (*n*) : a difficulty or unpleasant situation
- perseverance (*n*) : the quality of continuing to try to achieve a particular aim despite difficulties

Comprehension

I. Answer the following questions.

1. 'I call it my chicken drumstick,' joked Nick. What does 'it' refer to? How does it help him?
2. What do you mean by 'right girl / boy' to marry?
3. 'His parents decided not to send him to a special school.' Was Nick happy about his parents' decision? Why or why not? What do you think about this decision?
4. How did Nick's parents help him to become independent?
5. Pick out the symptoms of Nick's depression. Do you think his depression was normal or something unique about him? Give reasons for your opinion.
6. Which incident in this text is funny? What makes it funny?
7. What made Nick choose Bethany Hamilton as his teacher to learn surfing?
8. Which aspect of Nick's physical condition helps him to do a 360 degree spin?
9. What are the distinct features of this text? List them.
10. What do you learn from the life of Nick Vujicic?
11. Do you think disability is an obstacle to achieve success in life? Substantiate your argument citing evidences from Nick Vujicic's biographical account 'Attitude is Altitude.'

II. Given below are some of the statements made by Nick Vujicic. Which of these are substantiated by Nick's life?

- I realised why God had made us like this - to give hope to others.
- I wanted to concentrate on something good that I had.
- I tell people to keep on getting up when they fall and to always love themselves.
- If I can encourage just one person, then my job in this life is done.

Vocabulary

I. Look at the list of adjectives given below in the box. Which of them describe Nick Vujicic? Tick (✓) them.

positive	<input type="checkbox"/>	cowardly	<input type="checkbox"/>	arrogant	<input type="checkbox"/>
negative	<input type="checkbox"/>	courageous	<input type="checkbox"/>	sarcastic	<input type="checkbox"/>
optimistic	<input type="checkbox"/>	reliable	<input type="checkbox"/>	quarrelsome	<input type="checkbox"/>
pessimistic	<input type="checkbox"/>	independent	<input type="checkbox"/>	rude	<input type="checkbox"/>
generous	<input type="checkbox"/>	dependent	<input type="checkbox"/>	creative	<input type="checkbox"/>
nervous	<input type="checkbox"/>	obedient	<input type="checkbox"/>	stubborn	<input type="checkbox"/>
confident	<input type="checkbox"/>	trusting	<input type="checkbox"/>	lazy	<input type="checkbox"/>
smart	<input type="checkbox"/>	valiant	<input type="checkbox"/>	pompous	<input type="checkbox"/>
sociable	<input type="checkbox"/>	self- centred	<input type="checkbox"/>	level-headed	<input type="checkbox"/>

Pick out from the text the examples that support these attributes.

Sl. No.	Attribute	Example from the text
1.	positive	In spite of his disability he has become great.
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

II. Tick (✓) the word / expression which is nearest in meaning to the word underlined in each sentence given below.

- Water sports aren't Nick's only thing - he also plays golf with a club tucked under his chin.
a) kept b) pulled c) covered d) tied
- His distraught mother couldn't bring herself to hold him until he was four months old.
a) angry b) careless c) shy d) anxious
- Despite the risk of bullying, his parents insisted on Nick's attending mainstream.
a) discrimination b) humiliation c) negligence d) failure

4. Nick, who was teased and bullied, had an electric wheelchair for mobility, and a team of carers to help him.
a) socialising b) movement c) travel d) safety
5. Nick managed to pull through to become an international symbol of triumph over adversity.
a) disability b) poverty c) difficulties d) opposition
6. The challenges in our lives are there to strengthen our convictions.
a) feelings b) practices c) beliefs d) characters

III. Read the following descriptions about persons and fill in the blanks with the words that match with these descriptions.

boorish extrovert meticulous suave placid
obnoxious compassionate timid introvert malicious

1. Ashok is a very unpleasant and rude fellow. I don't talk to him. He is _____.
2. Srinu is very confident, elegant and polite. But sometimes he does not appear to be sincere. He is _____.
3. Sujatha is quiet and calm. She doesn't like to spend time with others. She is interested in her thoughts and feelings. So she is an _____.
4. Ramesh is very sensitive. He always shows sympathy for people who are suffering. He is _____.
5. My neighbour is such a person that he has a feeling of hatred for others. He desires to hurt others' feelings. He is _____.
6. My father pays careful attention to every detail. He makes thorough planning for everything in our home. He is _____.
7. Prem is an extremely unpleasant person. He always tries to offend people. He is _____.
8. My mother is very calm and peaceful. She doesn't get excited or irritated easily. She is _____.
9. Rahul is a very lively and confident person. He enjoys being with his friends. He is an _____.
10. Sridhar is always afraid of speaking in the class. He is _____.



Defining and Non-defining Relative Clauses

Let us read the following sentences.

1. The woman who taught him surfing had been bitten by a shark.
2. Nick, who was teased and bullied, had an electric wheel chair for mobility.....

What difference do you notice between sentence (1) and (2)? In sentence (1) the relative clause defines **the woman**. It is a Defining Relative Clause. In sentence (2) the Relative Clause adds extra information about Nick. This is a Non-defining Relative Clause.

A Non-defining Relative Clause is preceded and followed by a comma or a hyphen.

e.g: The brave 26- year- old -- who is mainly a torso -- plays football and golf, swims and surfs.

I Read the text again and identify some more Defining and Non-defining Relative Clauses.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

II Complete the sentences with Defining or Non-defining Relative Clauses.

1. This is the peaceful place _____.
2. The 'Mahaprasthanam' is a popular book _____.
3. Suresh _____ has left the school just now.
4. Is this the street _____ ?
5. The express _____ has just arrived.

Writing

I. Writing a biographical sketch.

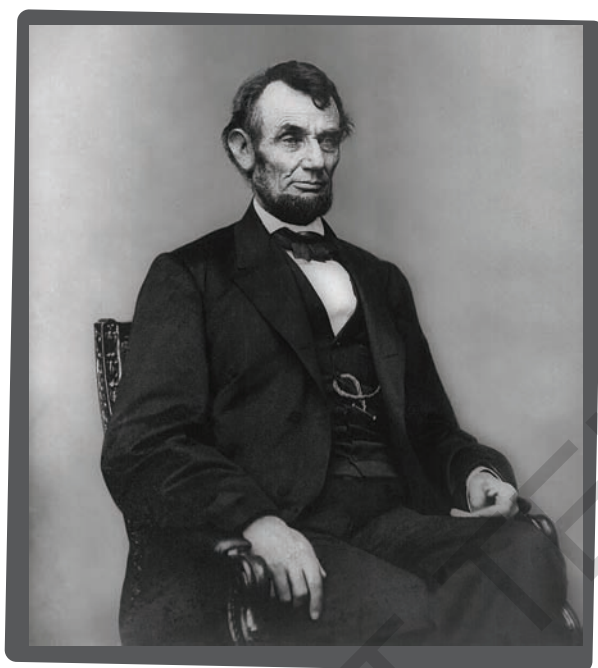
A biographical sketch is an account of the life and activities of an individual. It includes information about the person's name, place of residence, education, occupation, life and activities and other important details. It is written by another person. If a person writes an account of his/ her own life, it is called an autobiography.

Given below in the table is the biographical information about Stephen Hawking. Based on this information write a biographical sketch.

Stephen Hawking

Points to be covered	Details of the person
Date and place of birth	January 8, 1942, Oxford, England
Information about the family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eldest one of four sons • Mother: Isobel Hawking • Father: Frank Hawking, a medical researcher with a speciality in tropical diseases
Important events in life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early academic life: recognized as a bright student • High school years: third from the bottom of his class • Pursuits outside of school: loved board games, constructed a computer out of recycled parts at the age of 16, solved rudimentary mathematical equations • Marriage: married Jane Wilde • Health: Suffered from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis • Research: on black holes • Discovery: Hawking Radiation
Awards, prizes, honours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fellow of the Royal Society at the age of 32 • Albert Einstein Award. • The Pius XI- Gold Medal for Science from Pope Paul VI in 1975
Contribution to his field and society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributed to the advancement of science and research

Every Success Story Is also a Story of Great Failures



Failure is the highway to success. Tom Watson Sr. said, “If you want to succeed, double your failure rate.”

If you study history, you will find that all stories of success are also stories of great failures. But people don’t see the failures. They only see one side of the picture and they say that person got lucky: “He must have been at the right place at the right time.”

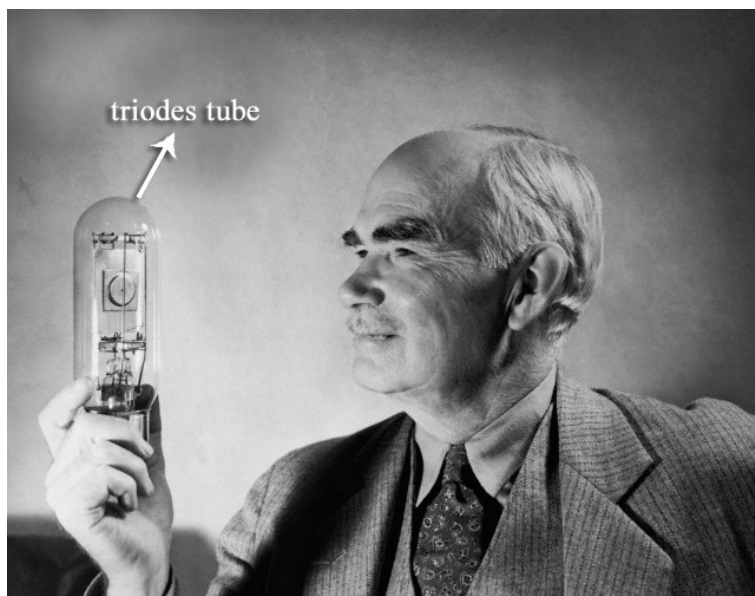
Let me share someone’s life history with you. This was a man who failed in business at the age of 21; was defeated in a legislative race at age 22; failed again in

business at age 24; overcame the death of his sweetheart at age 26; had a nervous breakdown at age 27; lost a congressional race at age 34; lost a senatorial race at age 45; failed in an effort to become vice-president at age 47; lost a senatorial race at age 49; and was elected president of the United States at age 52.

This man was Abraham Lincoln.

Would you call him a failure? He could have quit. But to Lincoln, defeat was a detour and not a dead end.

In 1913, Lee De Forest, the inventor of the triodes tube, was charged by the district attorney for using fraudulent means to mislead the public into buying stocks of his company by claiming that he could transmit the human voice across the Atlantic. He was publicly humiliated. Can you imagine where we would be without his invention?



A New York Times editorial on December 10, 1903, questioned the wisdom of the Wright Brothers who were trying to invent a machine, heavier than air, that would fly. One week later, at Kitty Hawk, the Wright Brothers took their famous flight.

Colonel Sanders, at age 65, with a beat-up car and a \$100 cheque from social security, realized he had to do something.

He remembered his mother's recipe and went out selling. How many doors did he have to knock on before he got his first order? It is estimated that he had knocked on more than a thousand doors before he got his first order. How many of us quit after three tries, ten tries, a hundred tries, and then we say we tried as hard as we could?

As a young cartoonist, Walt Disney faced many rejections from newspaper editors, who said he had no talent. One day a minister at a church hired him to draw some cartoons. Disney was working out of a small mouse infested shed near the church. After seeing a small mouse, he was inspired. That was the start of Mickey Mouse.

Successful people don't do great things; they only do small things in a great way.

One day a partially deaf four year old kid came home with a note in his pocket from his teacher, "Your Tommy is too stupid to learn, get him out of the school." His mother read the note and answered, "My Tommy is not stupid to learn, I will teach him myself." And that Tommy grew up to be the great Thomas Edison. Thomas Edison had only three months of formal schooling and he was partially deaf.

Henry Ford forgot to put the reverse gear in the first car he made.



Do you consider these people failures? They succeeded in spite of problems, not in the absence of them. But to the outside world, it appears as though they just got lucky.

All success stories are stories of great failures. The only difference is that every time they failed, they bounced back. This is called failing forward, rather than backward. You learn and move forward. Learn from your failure and keep moving.

In 1914, Thomas Edison, at age 67, lost his factory, which was worth a few million dollars, on fire. It had very little insurance. No longer a young man, Edison watched his lifetime effort go up in smoke and said, "There is great value in disaster. All our mistakes are burnt up. Thank God we can start anew." In spite of the disaster, three weeks later, he invented the phonograph. What an attitude!

Below are more examples of the failures of successful people:

1. Thomas Edison failed approximately 10,000 times while he was working on the light bulb.
2. Henry Ford was broke at the age of 40.
3. Lee Iacocca was fired by Henry Ford II at the age of 54.
4. Young Beethoven was told that he had no talent for music, but he gave some of the best music to the world.

Setbacks are inevitable in life. A setback can act as a driving force and also teach us humility. In grief you will find courage and faith to overcome the setback. We need to learn to become victors, not victims. Fear and doubt short-circuit the mind.

Ask yourself after every setback: What did I learn from this experience? Only then you will be able to turn a stumbling block into a stepping stone.



The motivation to succeed comes from the burning desire to achieve a purpose. Napoleon Hill wrote, "Whatever the mind of man can conceive and believe the mind can achieve."

A young man asked Socrates the secret to success. Socrates told the young man to meet him near the river the next morning. They met. Socrates asked the young man to walk with him towards the river. When the water got up to their neck, Socrates took the young man by surprise and ducked him into the water. The boy struggled to get out but Socrates was strong and kept him there until the

boy started turning blue. Socrates pulled his head out of the water and the first thing the young man did was to gasp and take a deep breath of air. Socrates asked, "What did you want the most when you were there?" The boy replied, "Air." Socrates said, "That is the secret to success. When you want success as badly as you wanted the air, then you will get it. There is no other secret".

A burning desire is the starting point of all accomplishments. Just like a small fire cannot give much heat, a weak desire cannot produce great results.

IF YOU THINK

If you think you are beaten, you are.
If you think you dare not, you don't!
If you like to win, but think you can't,
It's almost a cinch you won't.
If you think you'll lose, you're lost;
For out in the world we find
Success begins with a fellow's will;
It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you are outclassed, you are,
You've got to think high to rise,
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You can ever win a prize.
Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger and faster man,
But sooner or later the man who wins
Is the man who thinks he can.

By Shiv Khera



About the author

Shiv Khera is an Indian author of self-help books and activist. While working in the United States, he was inspired by a lecture delivered by Norman Vincent Peale and followed his motivational teachings. Khera has written several books including *You Can Win*. His mission is "to ensure freedom through education and justice." Shiv Khera was born in a business family which used to have coal mines at Kendua in Dhanbad, India. Soon after the nationalisation of coal mines by the Indian government, he had to search for his own living. In his early years he worked as a car washer, a life insurance agent, and a franchise operator before he became a motivational speaker.

Glossary

- overcome (*v*) : to defeat or succeed in controlling or dealing with something
- detour (*n*) : a road or route that is used when the usual one is closed
- triodes tube (*n*) : A triode is an electronic amplification tube having three active electrodes. Invented in 1906, the triode vacuum tube was the first electronic amplification device. This invention founded the electronic age, making possible amplified radio technology and long-distance telephony.
- Lee de Forest : an American inventor with over 180 patents to his credit. He invented the Audion, a vacuum tube that takes relatively weak electrical signals and amplifies them. He is one of the fathers of the "electronic age," as the Audion helped to usher in the widespread use of electronics. He is also credited with one of the principal inventions that brought sound to motion pictures.
- fraudulent (*adj*) : intended to cheat someone, usually in order to make money illegally
- Colonel Sanders : Colonel Harland David Sanders was an American businessman and restaurateur who founded the Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) chain restaurants
- beat-up (*adj*) : old and damaged
- Walt Disney : an American animator, film producer, director, screenwriter, voice actor, entrepreneur, entertainer, international icon and philanthropist, well known for his influence in the field of entertainment during the 20th century; He created some of the world's most well-known fictional characters including Mickey Mouse.
- infest(*v*) : to exist in large numbers in a particular place, often causing damage or disease (especially of insects or animals such as rats)
- Henry Ford : an American industrialist, the founder of the Ford Motor company, and sponsor of the development of the assembly line technique of mass production; He did not invent the automobile but he developed and manufactured the first automobile that many middle class Americans could afford to buy.

Lee Iacocca	:	an American business man known for engineering the Ford Mustang and Ford Pinto cars. He was the former chairman of the Chrysler Corporation. He was one of the most famous business people in the world. He is the author (or co-author) of several books, including Iacocca.
Ludwig van Beethoven	:	a German composer and pianist; He was a crucial figure in the transition between the Classical and Romantic eras in Western art music. He remains one of the most famous and influential of all composers. His best known compositions include 9 symphonies, 5 concertos, 2 piano sonatas and 16 string quartets. He also composed other chamber music, choral works (including the celebrated Missa Solemnis and songs).
Napoleon Hill	:	an American author in the area of the new thought movement who was one of the earliest producers of the modern genre of personal-success literature; He is widely considered to be one of the great writers on 'success'.
conceive (v)	:	to form an idea, a plan, etc. in your mind; to imagine something
Socrates (469 BC - 399 BC):	:	a classical Greek Athenian philosopher credited as one of the founders of Western Philosophy; He is an enigmatic figure known chiefly through the accounts of later classical writers, especially the writings of his students Plato and Xenophon and the plays of his contemporary Aristophanes. Many would claim that Plato's dialogues are the most comprehensive accounts of Socrates to survive from antiquity. Socrates has become renowned for his contribution to the field of ethics.
ducked (v)	:	pushed somebody under water and held them there for a short time
cinch (n)	:	a thing that is certain to happen
outclassed (v)	:	overcame

Comprehension

I. Answer the following questions.

1. 'To Lincoln, defeat was a detour and not a dead end.' Justify this statement from the life of Lincoln.
2. What did Socrates suggest as the secret to success? Do you agree or disagree with him? Give reasons for your answer.
3. Complete the following table about the failures and successes of the great personalities mentioned in the lesson you have just read. The first one is done for you.

Sl. No.	Person	Failures/rejections he faced	Final success
1.	Abraham Lincoln	Failed in business, defeated in legislative elections, had nervous breakdown, lost congressional race and senatorial race	Elected president of United States of America
2.			Invented the triodes tube
3.	Wright Brothers		
4.		Knocked many doors before he got the first order	
5.	Walt Disney		
6.			Grew up to be a great scientist
7.			Established cars company
8.		Fired by Henry Ford II	
9.			Gave some of the best music to the world.



Read the following story.

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer-contractor of his plans to leave the house-building business to live a more leisurely life with his wife and enjoy his extended family. He would miss the paycheck each week, but he wanted to retire. They could get by.

The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favour. The carpenter agreed. But over time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end a dedicated career.

When the carpenter finished his work, his employer came to inspect the house. Then he handed the front-door key to the carpenter and said, “This is your house... my gift to you.”

The carpenter was shocked!

What a shame! If he had only known that he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently.

So it is with us. We build our lives, a day at a time, often putting less than our best into the building. Then, with a shock, we realize we have to live in the house we have built. If we could do it over, we would do it much differently.

But, you cannot go back. You are the carpenter, and every day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall. Someone once said, “Life is a do-it-yourself project.” Your attitude, and the choices you make today, help build the “house” you will live in tomorrow. Therefore, build wisely!

I. Complete the table given below.

Sl. No.	Point to be observed	Evidences from the story
1.	The setting /location in which the story took place	
2.	The main characters	

3.	The main events	a. _____ b. _____ c. _____ d. _____ e. _____
4.	The turning point in the story	
5.	The irony in the story	
6.	The message in the story	
7.	Suggest a possible title	

II. Rewrite the above story by giving another ending of your own.



Listen to the story about a farmer read by your teacher.

Just now you have listened to a story about a farmer. Here are some sentences that describe the events in the story. However, they are not in the order in which they occur in the story. Listen to the story and arrange them in the order in which they occur. Put 1 after the event that occurs first, 2 against the next and so on.

He threw himself into the Barcelona river and committed suicide.

The wise man said, "Because that is a diamond."

He picked up the stone and put it in the living room.

He looked all through Europe and couldn't find any.

They found that the farm was indeed covered with acres and acres of diamonds.

That night the farmer couldn't sleep.

The person who had bought his farm was watering the camels at a stream.

He made arrangements to sell off his farm and went in search of diamonds.

He was unhappy and he was discontent.

A wise man told him about the glory of diamonds.

Oral Activity

You've listened to the story. Now, work in pairs and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of travelling abroad. You may use the hints given in the box for your understanding.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Earn more money	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cut off from your roots
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social status	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Living away from parents
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brain drain / Intellectual loss

C Reading

I Will Do It

He was short. He was sharp. He was the brightest boy in his class. His seniors used to ask him to solve their difficulties in science. He could have gone unnoticed in a crowd, but once you asked him a question related to Physics or Maths, there was a spark in his eyes. He could grasp theories of science faster than the speed of light.



He came from a poor but educated family. His father was a high-school teacher and an avid reader of English literature. He, like all the boys in his class, was trying to get admission into some engineering college. The brighter ones wanted to study in the Indian

Institutes of Technology, or the IITs. There was an entrance test for IIT. This boy, along with his friends, applied to appear for the test. They did not have any special books or coaching. All these IIT aspirants would sit below the shade of a stone *mandap* close to Chamundi Hills in the sleepy town of Mysore. He was the guide for the others. While the others struggled to solve the problems in the question paper, he would smile shyly and solve them in no time. He sat alone below a tree and dreamt of studying at IIT. It was the ultimate aim for any bright boy at that age, as it still is today. He was then only sixteen years old.

The D-Day came. He came to Bangalore, stayed with some relatives and appeared for the entrance test. He did very well but would only say 'OK' when asked. It was the opposite when it came to food. When he said 'OK' it implied 'bad', when he said 'good' it implied 'OK', when he said 'excellent' it implied 'good'. His principle was never to hurt anyone.

The IIT entrance results came. He had passed with a high rank. What a delight for any student! He was thrilled. He went to his father who was reading a newspaper.

‘Anna, I have passed the exam.’

‘Well done, my boy.’

‘I want to join IIT.’

His father stopped reading the paper. He lifted his head, looked at the boy and said



with a heavy voice, 'My son, you are a bright boy. You know our financial position. I have five daughters to be married off and three sons to educate. I am a salaried person. I cannot afford your expenses at IIT. You can stay in Mysore and study as much as you want.'

Indeed it was a difficult situation for any father to say 'no' to his bright son. But circumstances were like that. It was common then for the man to be the single earning member with a large family dependent on him.

His father was sad that he had to tell the bitter truth to his son. But it could not be helped. The boy had to understand reality.

The teenager was disappointed. It seemed his dreams had burnt to ashes. He was so near to fulfilling his fondest hope, yet so far. His heart sank in sorrow.

He did not reply. He never shared his unhappiness or helplessness with anybody. He was an introvert by nature. His heart was bleeding but he did not get angry with anybody.

The day came. His classmates were leaving for Madras (now Chennai). They were taking a train from Mysore to Madras. They have shared good years in school and college together. He went to the station to say goodbye and good luck to them for their future life.

At the station, his friends were already there. They were excited and talking loudly. The noise was like the chirping of birds. They were all excited and discussing their new hostels, new courses etc. He was not part of it. So, he stood there silently. One of them noticed and said, 'You should have made it.'

He did not reply. He only wished all of them. They waved at him as the train slowly left the platform.

He stood there even after he could no longer see the train or the waving hands. It was the June of 1962 in Mysore city. Monsoon had set in and it was getting dark. It had started to drizzle. Yet he stood there motionless.

He said to himself, without anger or jealousy, 'All students from the IITs study well and do big things in life. But it is not the institution; ultimately it is you and you alone who can change your life by hard work.'

Probably he was not aware that he was following the philosophy of the Bhagavath Gita: 'Your best friend is yourself and your worst enemy is yourself.'

Later he worked very hard, and focused on one thing, never bothering about his personal life or comforts. He shared his wealth with others. He never used the help of any caste, community or political connections to go up in life.

A son of a school teacher showed other Indians it was possible to earn wealth legally and ethically. He built a team of people who were equally good.

He became a pioneer of India's software industry and started the Information Technology wave. Today he has become an icon of simplicity, uncompromising quality and

fairness, apart from being a philanthropist. He really believes in the motto, 'Powered by intellect and driven by values'.

He is none other than Nagavara Ramarao Narayana Murthy, the founder of Infosys, a leading IT company in the world.

By Sudha Murthy



About the author

Sudha Murthy, the wife of N.R. Narayana Murthy, is an Indian social worker and author. Murthy began her professional career as a computer scientist and engineer. She is the chairperson of the Infosys Foundation. She has founded several orphanages, participated in rural development efforts, supported the movement to provide all Karnataka government schools with computer and library facilities, and established the 'The Murthy Classical Library of India' at Harvard University. Murthy also teaches Computer Science, she composed fiction, *Dollar Sose*. The present story is a selection from one of her most successful stories 'How I Taught my Grandmother to Read & Other Stories.'

Glossary

mandap (n) : a raised platform

D-Day (n) : a date on which something important is expected to happen; (From the name given to June 6, 1944, the day on which the U.S., British, and other armies landed on the beaches of northern France in the Second World War.)

Anna (n) : a word used to address a respectable elder or older male

icon (n) : a famous person or thing that people admire and see as a symbol of a particular idea, way of life, etc

philanthropist (n) : one who devotes his service or wealth for the love of mankind

Comprehension

I. Answer the following questions briefly.

1. What is the aim of a bright student?
2. 'His heart sank in sorrow.' Whose heart sank in sorrow? Why?
3. How did Murthy react when his father expressed his helplessness to send him to IIT?
4. The author calls Murthy an introvert. What action of Murthy substantiate this claim of the author about Murthy?
5. What, according to Narayana Murthy, can change the life of a person?
6. How does the motto 'Powered by intellect and driven by values' describe Murthy's life?
7. What message does the writer have for educated youth who reach at a high positions in the society by virtue of their education? Justify your view point with supporting evidence from the text 'I Will Do It'.

II. Given below are some sentences from the lesson. What do they tell us about Narayana Murthy's qualities? Use the adjectives given in the box to describe Murthy's character. You may also use some more adjectives you like.

bright	obedience	introverted	hardworking
simple	uncompromising	philosophical	encouraging

Sl No.	Sentences from the lesson	Aspects of Murthy's character
1.	His seniors used to ask him to solve their difficulties in science.	
2.	He respects the elders opinion.	
3.	While others struggle to solve the problems in the question papers, he would smile shyly and solve them in no time.	

4.	His principle was never to hurt anyone.	
5.	He did not reply. He never shared his unhappiness or helplessness with anybody.	
6.	He went to station to say goodbye and good luck to them for their future life.	
7.	He never used the help of any caste, community or political connections to go up in life.	
8.	He built a team of people who were equally good.	

Vocabulary

One-word Substitutes

Look at the underlined words in the following sentences from the lesson.

1. Today he has become an icon of simplicity, uncompromising quality and fairness, apart from being a philanthropist.
2. He became a pioneer of India's software industry and started the Information technology wave.

What is the meaning of 'philanthropist'? A philanthropist is one who devotes his service or wealth for the love of mankind.

Who is a pioneer? A pioneer is a person who is the first to study and develop a particular area of knowledge, culture, etc. that other people then continue to develop.

You have observed that the meaning of a group of words is substituted with a word as in sentences (1) and (2). Words which replace a group of words or a full sentence effectively without creating any kind of ambiguity in the meaning of the sentences are called one word substitutes. The main purpose of using one word substitutes is to express the idea precisely and accurately.

Let's look at some more one word substitutes.

Sl.No	Word	Meaning
1.	fatalist	a person who believes in fate
2.	centenarian	a person who is above hundred years
3.	omnipresent	one who is present everywhere
4.	mercenary	a person who can do anything for money
5.	misogynist	one who hates women
6.	monogamy	a practice of having one wife or husband
7.	autobiography	a life history written by oneself
8.	biography	a life history written by somebody else
9.	honorary	a position for which no salary is paid
10.	ambiguous	a sentence whose meaning is unclear

Tick (✓) the most appropriate one word substitutes for the following.

- A person or thing that cannot be corrected
a) unintelligible b) indelible c) illegible d) incorrigible
- A person of good understanding, knowledge and reasoning power
a) expert b) intellectual c) snob d) literate
- A person who knows many languages
a) linguist b) grammarian c) polyglot d) bilingual
- One who possesses many talents
a) versatile b) prodigy c) exceptional d) gifted
- Words inscribed on a tomb
a) epitome b) epistle c) epilogue d) epitaph

Project Work

You have read about Nick Vujicic, who has accomplished every seemingly impossible thing in life despite having the most difficult form of disability. You have read about Narayana Murthy, who is one of the most remarkable examples to win over the unbeatable difficulties. You may also have heard or read about some remarkable Indian women such as Sudha Murthy, Sudha Chandran, Kiran Bedi and many other women who have crossed all the hurdles to become successful.

Work in pairs and make a list of qualities you like in your partner. Exchange the list with your partner. Assess whether you want more words describing your own qualities in it. All qualities are present in all of us, though some are better developed than others. Qualities help us live well and solve problems that we may come across in our lives.

Check your personality

Read the following statements and indicate whether you agree or disagree to them. If you agree, tick (✓) 'Yes' and if you disagree, tick (✓) 'No'.

1. Your teacher has assigned you a task in English which you think is very difficult. But you have decided to try.

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------
2. You have participated in a team game. Your team has become victorious. You really felt bad when nobody recognized you.

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------
3. You always like to quarrel with others.

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------
4. You enjoy yourself when people tease and make comments on others.

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------
5. You believe that girls can do anything on a par with boys.

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	--------------------------	----	--------------------------

6. Your teacher has given you very important notes for your exams. You have shared them with others in the class.

Yes		No	
-----	--	----	--

7. You have several doubts in a subject. But you do not want to consult your teacher or your friends because of the fear that they will underestimate your ability.

Yes		No	
-----	--	----	--

8. You would love to have a lot of friends.

Yes		No	
-----	--	----	--

9. You get irritation when others find fault with what you have done.

Yes		No	
-----	--	----	--

10. Your class room is very shabby. You advise your friends to keep it clean and tidy.

Yes		No	
-----	--	----	--

11. Your friends are quarrelling in the class. Instead of pacifying them you encourage them to quarrel.

Yes		No	
-----	--	----	--

12. You do not like to complain about anything or against anybody.

Yes		No	
-----	--	----	--

13. You think, "Examinations are a nightmarish experience for me."

Yes		No	
-----	--	----	--

14. You believe, "I have so much to learn from others."

Yes		No	
-----	--	----	--

15. You say, "I am responsible for my deeds."

Yes		No	
-----	--	----	--

If you tick 'Yes' to the statements, 1,5,6,8,10,12,14,15 and 'No' to the statements, 2, 3,4,7,9,11,13, you are a positive personality. Every 'Yes' or 'No' carries one mark each. For example, a person may say 'Yes' to three statements and 'No' to 2 of the above, his / her score will be 5/15. That means, he/she is 33% positive.



How well have I understood this unit?

Read and tick (✓) in the appropriate box.



Indicators	Yes	Somewhat	No
Reading: I read and comprehended the text:			
A: Attitude Is Altitude			
B: Every Success Story Is Also a Story of Great Failures			
C: I will Do It			
Vocabulary: I was able to			
• identify the adjectives that describe Nick Vujicic.			
• pick out the examples from the text that support the attributes to Nick Vujicic.			
• identify the words that describe the positive or the negative attitude of a person.			
• choose the expressions which are nearest in meaning to the words given.			
• fill in the blanks with the words that match with the descriptions.			
• choose the most appropriate one-word substitutes.			
Grammar: I was able to			
• identify defining and non-defining relative clauses from the text.			
• circle the non-defining relative clauses and put a comma or a hyphen wherever necessary.			
• complete the sentences with defining or non-defining relative clauses.			

Indicators	Yes	Somewhat	No
Writing: I was able to			
• write the biographical sketch of Stephen Hawking.			
Study Skills: I was able to			
• read the given story and identify its features.			
• rewrite the story given by giving another ending.			
Listening and Speaking:			
• I listened to the story given under listening and was able to arrange the sentences given in the proper order.			
• I listened to the story and was able to discuss in pairs the advantages and the disadvantages of travelling abroad.			
• I was able to speak about a woman on the occasion of the 'Women's Day'.			
Project Work:			
• I was able to write a short Biographical sketch about the person who faced hardships/hurdles in life and became successful.			
• I was able to check my personality with the given check list.			