

1

UNIT

Good to great

Set the scene

Success seems to be an important topic that we cannot get away from. Since ancient times, there has been a wealth of witty ideas about the meaning of success and the ways to achieve it. For example, Mencius, a Chinese Confucian philosopher, once said that “everyone can become a Yao or a Shun,” meaning that as long as we try our best, we can achieve what we strive for. William Shakespeare, an English poet, playwright, and actor, remarked that “to climb steep hills requires a slow pace at first.” How do you define success and how are you going to achieve it?

Learning objectives

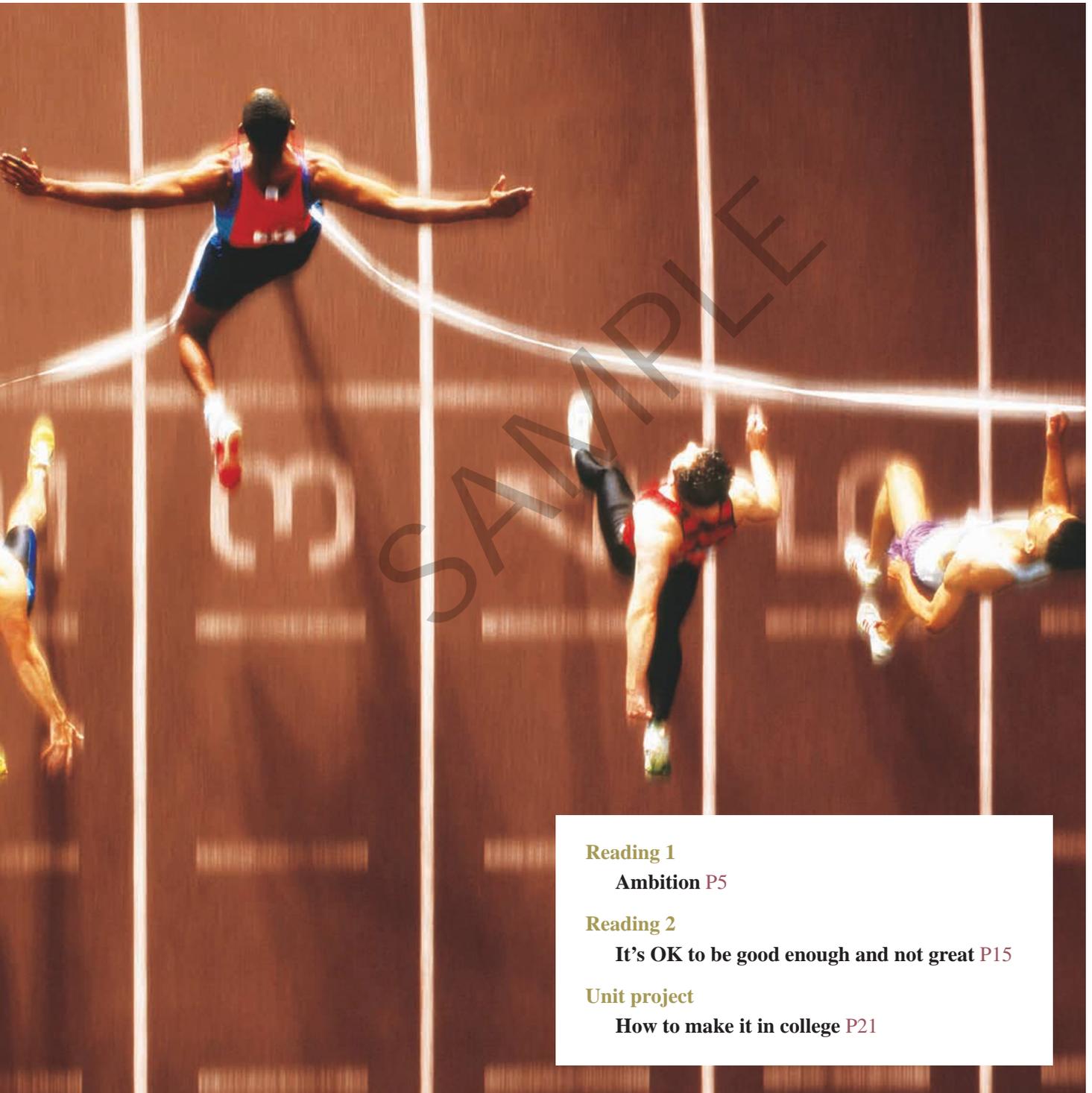
Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- evaluate the importance of ambition and analyze the “good-enough” mindset;
- define and explain an abstract concept from different perspectives in your writing;
- adopt an appropriate attitude toward success and make your own judgment.



Without resolve, one can accomplish nothing.

— Wang Yangming
(1472-1529, neo-Confucian philosopher)



Reading 1

Ambition P5

Reading 2

It's OK to be good enough and not great P15

Unit project

How to make it in college P21

Get ready to read



Video clip

NEW WORDS

reflection *n.* 映像

peek *vi.* 偷看

interactive *a.* 互动的

clarify *vt.* 阐明

perception *n.* 看法;
见解

Watch for information

Chris Navarro, a famous bronze artist, designed an award-winning sculpture *Dare to Dream Big*. Watch a video clip in which Navarro introduces this sculpture and his perception of dreams. Then complete the outline with no more than THREE words for each answer.

What the sculpture is about

- A cat looking into a mirror and seeing his reflection as that of
1) _____.
- 2) _____ peeking around the corner of the mirror, thinking,
“Just what I need — a cat who believes he’s a lion.”

The interactive element of the sculpture

- Next to the sculpture is a large chalkboard on which visitors can write down their 3) _____.
- It forces visitors to clarify what they want, motivates them to act, and opens their mind and heart to 4) _____.

The purpose of the sculpture

- It aims to bring a smile to one’s face and 5) _____ to one’s heart so that they can feel better about themselves, build their perceptions of the possible, and develop skills to face 6) _____ and to reach their goals.

Different reactions to the sculpture

- Adults 7) _____ and make excuses when they are asked to write down their dreams.
- Children could not wait to write their dreams down.

Conclusion

- Having your dreams come true is what life is all about. When you dare to dream big, whatever you dream of, 8) _____.

Watch and discuss

In the video clip, Chris Navarro says that adults and children respond differently to writing down their dreams and goals. Do you think there is any difference between adults and children in terms of dreams? Have your dreams undergone any change as you grow older? Share your opinion and experience with a partner.

AMBITION



- 1 In college, my friend Beth was very **ambitious**, not only for herself but for her friends. She was interested in foreign relations, in travel, in going to law school. “I plan to be the Secretary of State **someday**,” she would say **matter-of-factly**. I was a **biology** major, which was a problem: Beth’s friend from childhood was also studying biology, and Beth had already decided she would win the Nobel Prize. This was **resolved** by my interest in writing **fiction**. I would win that Nobel, while her other friend would win for science.
- 2 It was a joke; we were all smart-ass¹ college **freshmen**, **pretending** the world was ours for the asking. But it was not entirely a joke. We were smart college freshmen, and why should we limit our ambitions?
- 3 I’ve always liked ambitious people, not because I am **desperate** to be **buddies** with a future Secretary of State but because I find ambitious people **entertaining** — interesting to talk to, fun to watch. And, of course, I like such people because I am ambitious myself, and I would rather not feel **apologetic** about it.
- 4 What I mean by ambition is dreaming big dreams, putting no limits on your expectations and your hopes. I don’t really like very specific, **attainable** ambitions. I like big ambitions that suggest the world could open up at any time, with work and luck and **determination**. The next book could hit it big. The next research project could lead to something fantastic. The next bright idea could change history.
- 5 Of course, eventually you have to stop being a freshman in college. You limit your ambitions and become more **realistic**, wiser about your potential, your abilities, and the number of

Notes

- 1 If you describe someone as smart-ass (*AmE*) or smart-arse (*BrE*), you dislike the fact that they think they are very clever and like to show everyone this. Here, the author uses this word in a humorous way.
-



things your life can hold. Sometimes you get close to something you wanted to do, only to find it looks better from far away. Back when I was a freshman, to tell the truth, I wanted to be Jane Goodall, go into the **jungle** to study monkeys and learn things no one had ever dreamed of, but it turned out that wasn't enough of a basis for a life. And I was not **fated** to live a wild, **adventurous** life, to travel alone to all the most **exotic** parts of the world, to leave behind a **string** of broken hearts.

- 6 One of the worst things ambition can do is tell you you're a failure. The world is full of measuring tapes, books, and articles to tell you where you should be at your age, after so many years of doing what you do. However, the world is full of disappointed people. Some of them probably never had much ambition to start with; they sat back and waited for something good and felt cheated because it never happened. Some of them had very set, specific ambitions and, for one reason or another, never got what they wanted. Others got what they wanted but found it wasn't exactly what they'd expected it to be.
- 7 As you grow up, your ambitions may come into **conflict**. Part of growing up, of course, is realizing that there is only so much room in one life. You do one thing **whole-heartedly** and **single-mindedly** and give up some other things. Or you can be **greedy** and grab for something new without wanting to give up what you already have. This leads to a **chaotic** and crowded life in which you are always late, always **overdue**, always behind, but rarely bored. Even so, you have to come to terms with limitations; you cannot crowd your life with occupations and then expect to do each one as well as you might if it were all you had to do.
- 8 Of course, I try to be **mature** about ambition. I don't **assign** my friends Nobel Prizes or top government posts. I don't pretend that there is room in my life for any and every kind of ambition I can imagine. Instead, all I want are three things: I want to write as well as I can, I want to have a family, and I want to be a good **pediatrician**. And then, of course, a voice inside whispers: to write a **best-seller**, to have 10 children, to do amazing medical research ... Even though I'm not a college freshman **anymore**, I'm glad to find that little voice still there, **whispering sweet nothings**² in my ear.

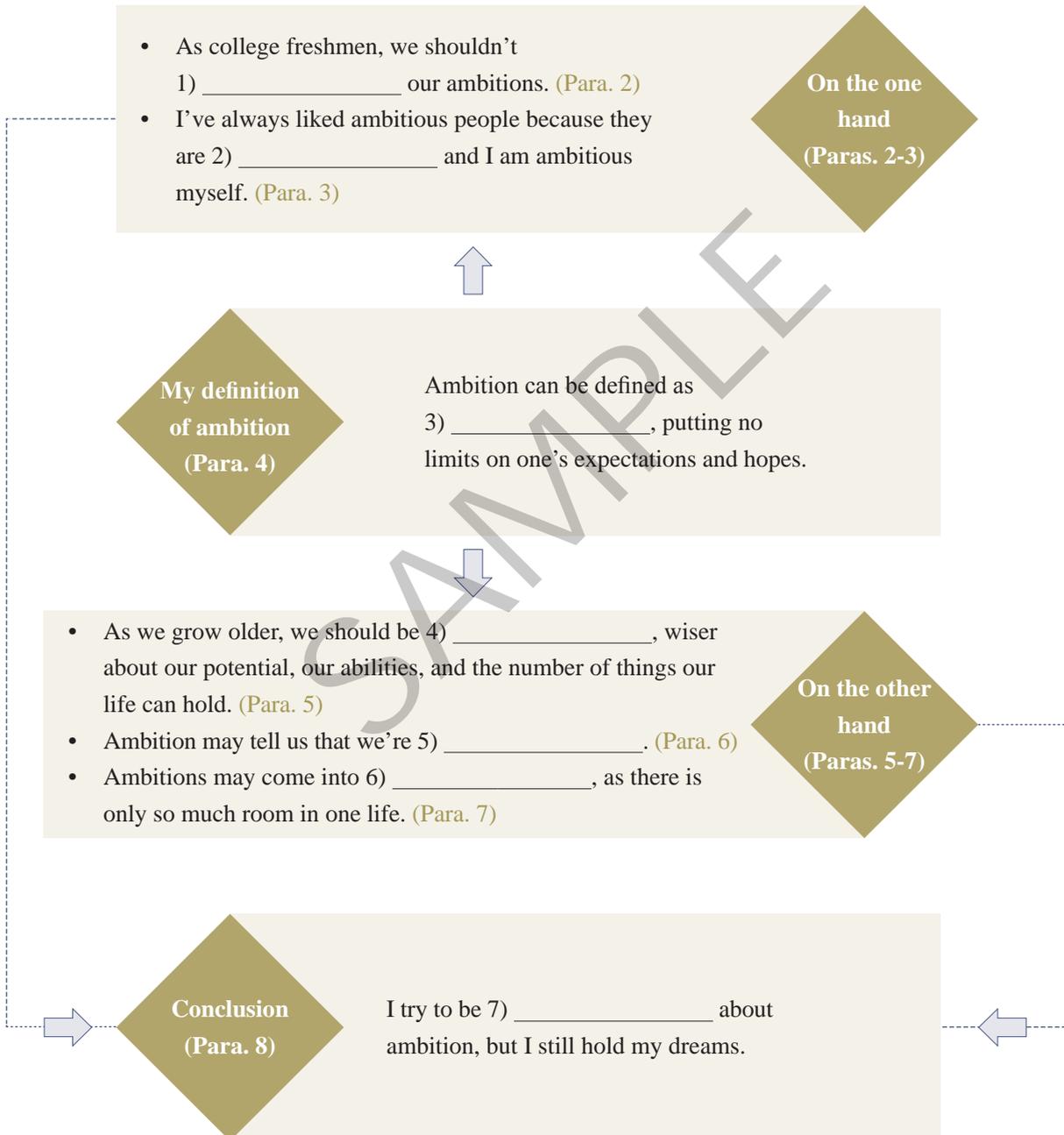
Notes

- 2 Here "sweet nothings" is a humorous expression, meaning "romantic and loving talk."
e.g. *The couple in the corner is whispering sweet nothings to each other.*
-

Read and understand

Global understanding

Read the passage and complete the outline with no more than THREE words from the passage for each answer.



Detailed understanding

Read the passage again and choose the best answer to the questions or the best way to complete the unfinished statements.

- Which of the following can be inferred about Beth?
 - She crowded her life with too many unrealistic dreams.
 - She was struggling between different choices in life.
 - She was always ready to help her friends solve conflicts.
 - She had a very strong desire for success in politics.
- The author says “it was not entirely a joke” (Para. 2) to emphasize that _____.
 - they are very smart
 - they shouldn’t limit their ambitions
 - their dreams are very realistic
 - they are very ambitious
- Which of the following ambitions is NOT an ideal one according to the author’s standard?
 - Becoming the Secretary of State.
 - Changing history with great ideas.
 - Becoming a Nobel Prize winner.
 - Reading 50 meaningful books.
- The author uses her dream of becoming Jane Goodall to illustrate that _____.
 - dreams sometimes are different from realities
 - achieving success requires much determination
 - women ought to make more efforts to succeed
 - life can be more challenging than imagined
- Which of the following is part of growing up according to the author?
 - Catching every opportunity to learn something new.
 - Keeping oneself busy with a tight schedule.
 - Overcoming any possible limitation in life.
 - Understanding that one’s ability is limited.
- The author mentions “to write a best-seller, to have 10 children, to do amazing medical research” to stress that _____.
 - she arranges her ambitions in order of importance
 - she cherishes her ambitions deep in her heart
 - she knows that there is not so much room for all her ambitions
 - she keeps adjusting her ambitions as she grows up



Read and think

Dream big dreams vs. be realistic

- Step**
1 In the passage, the author defines ambition as “dreaming big dreams, putting no limits on your expectations and your hopes,” but she also stresses that you have to “come to terms with limitations” and “be realistic” about your ambition. Which side do you think is more convincing? Use evidence in the passage to justify your viewpoint.
- Step**
2 If you were the author, what other evidence would you use to further illustrate your viewpoint?

Being ambitious: positive or negative?

- Step**
1 In the passage, the author mentions that “I’ve always liked ambitious people ... because I find ambitious people entertaining — interesting to talk to, fun to watch.” Drawing on your own experience, do you agree with the author? Why or why not?
- Step**
2 Is being ambitious a positive or negative quality in Chinese culture? Explain your answer.

Read and practice

Meaning in context

Pick out the sentence in each group where the italicized word has the same meaning as the italicized word in the sentence from the passage.

1. This was *resolved* by my interest in writing fiction.
 - A. After the divorce she *resolved* never to marry again.
 - B. Attempts are being made to *resolve* the problem of security in schools.
 - C. The teacher tried to *resolve* a complex argument into its basic elements.
2. I've always liked ambitious people, not because I am *desperate* to be buddies with a future Secretary of State ...
 - A. The situation is *desperate* — we have no food, very little water, and no medical supplies.
 - B. The prisoners grew more *desperate* in their attempts to escape.
 - C. I am *desperate* to see initial results; otherwise I will get restless and lose hope.
3. Even so, you have to come to terms with *limitations* ...
 - A. We plan to impose *limitations* on the use of cars in the city.
 - B. They would resist any *limitation* of their powers.
 - C. It's a good little car, but it has its *limitations*.
4. ... you cannot crowd your life with *occupations* and then expect to do each one as well as you might if it were all you had to do.
 - A. In the space marked "*occupation*," she wrote "police officer."
 - B. Her main *occupation* seems to be shopping.
 - C. He intends to remain in *occupation* of the building for as long as possible.
5. I don't assign my friends Nobel Prizes or top government *posts*.
 - A. I applied for the *post* and was asked to attend an interview.
 - B. The guards were ordered not to leave their *posts*.
 - C. I'd been away for a few days so I had a lot of *post* waiting for me.



Good

Word building

Translate the expressions into English.

1. 高速铁路 _____
2. 兼职工作 _____
3. 长远计划 _____
4. 最新资讯 _____
5. 环保餐桌 _____
6. 新开的书店 _____
7. 热心肠的女孩 _____
8. 等着瞧的态度 _____
9. 面对面交流 _____
10. 思想开明的学者 _____

Compounds

When two or more words are combined together to create a new word, a compound word forms. There are three types of compound words: open compounds (spelled as two words, e.g., ice cream), closed compounds (joined to form a single word, e.g., freshman, overdue), or hyphenated compounds (joined by a hyphen, e.g., matter-of-factly, whole-heartedly). Compounds can be complicated. Sometimes it is very hard to decide whether a compound should be open, closed, or hyphenated. The safest way is to consult the dictionary.

Language in use

Complete the sentences by translating the Chinese in brackets into English.

1. _____ (成功解决冲突的能力) is probably one of the most important skills that you can possess.
2. When you learn how to combine your passion and action, _____ (只要你想, 未来便是你的).
3. There are certain people who _____ (宁愿不去尝试) because they are afraid that they will fail.
4. You need to _____ (定一个具体的、可实现的目标) if you plan to be successful and know where you're going.
5. When a new opportunity presents itself, _____ (不要坐等).
6. _____ (一旦你接受了失败), the next step is to adjust accordingly.



Better



Best

Banked cloze

Complete the passage with suitable words from the word bank. You may not use any of the words more than once.

adventurous	assign	attain	capable	desperate
determination	entertaining	enthusiasm	grab	limitations
matter-of-factly	mature	opportunities	potential	whole-heartedly

No one can succeed without a healthy amount of ambition. Ambition is a major drive for 1) _____ growth and development. Those who wish to be more, know more, do more, give more or have more, have a powerful inner drive that leads them to enjoy a(n) 2) _____ life and go further. Ambition drives them to be 3) _____ devoted to their goals.

Ambitious people know what they want; they have clear goals and work very hard to 4) _____ them. They have willpower and 5) _____, and take charge of their destiny, rather than expect others to satisfy their needs. Ambitious people also find it 6) _____ to take on exciting challenges. They are 7) _____ of adjusting and measuring up to their dreams, always watchful of the 8) _____ that are out there for those who are willing to see them and 9) _____ at them.

I always enjoy working with ambitious people because they have a gleam (闪光) in their eyes as they approach their goals and they have strong 10) _____ for accomplishing things, thus inspiring and motivating others.

Read and translate

Translate the sentences into English.

1. 有的父母期盼子女有远大的梦想，有的则希望孩子现实些。(dream big dreams)
2. 你不得不承认，意识到有些梦想永远不会实现是成长过程的一部分。(part of ... is ...)
3. 虽然困难重重，科学家们凭借勤奋和毅力取得了伟大的成就。(determination)
4. 他的成功归因于他能够一心一意地追求自己的目标。(single-mindedly)
5. 结果表明，机遇永远只垂青那些有准备的人。(turn out)
6. 丝绸之路代表的是一种冒险精神，一种勇往无前的精神。(adventurous)

Read and write

Define an abstract concept

It's sometimes necessary to explain what a term or a concept means in writing. Some words have definite, concrete meanings, such as *jungle* or *best-seller*, while words such as *ambition*, *happiness*, or *love* are abstract and depend more on a person's own interpretation. To fully explain your definition of an abstract concept, it's always a must to analyze it from different perspectives and support your analysis with understandable facts, examples, or anecdotes.

Step Read the passage again and find out:

1

1. the author's definition of ambition;
2. the arguments the author develops based on her definition of ambition;
3. the facts, examples, or anecdotes the author uses to illustrate her arguments.

Step The following are some examples about how to give a definition. Read them and underline the basic structure of giving a definition.

2

1. What I mean by empathy is putting yourself in other people's shoes and feeling what they feel.
2. Happiness can be defined as the experience of joy, contentment, or well-being, combined with a sense that one's life is good, meaningful, and worthwhile.
3. Romance in its broader sense refers to a zest for life, an energetic pursuit in any relationship with others as well as with nature.
4. Friendship can be described as a flower that must be consistently watered and maintained in order to make it grow well.
5. By definition, brand loyalty means the tendency of some consumers to continue buying the same brand of goods rather than competing brands.

Step Write a paragraph of no less than 80 words to offer your own definition of success. In your writing, you should:

3

1. present a clear and basic definition;
2. explain your definition from different perspectives;
3. use facts, examples, or anecdotes to clarify your ideas.



Get ready to read



Audio clip

Listen for information

“Whatever will be, will be” is a classic song. Listen to it and fill in the blanks with the exact words you hear in the song.

*Whatever will be,
will be*

<p>When I was just 1) _____</p> <p>I asked my mother, “What will I be?</p> <p>Will I 2) _____? Will I be rich?”</p> <p>Here’s what she said to me</p> <p>“Que será, será Whatever will be, will be The future’s not ours to see Que será, será What will be, will be”</p> <p>When I 3) _____ and fell in love</p> <p>I asked my sweetheart, “What lies ahead?</p> <p>Will we 4) _____ day after day?”</p> <p>Here’s what my sweetheart said</p>	<p>“Que será, será Whatever will be, will be The future’s not ours to see Que será, será What will be, will be”</p> <p>Now I have 5) _____</p> <p>They ask their mother, “What will I be? Will I be handsome? Will I be rich?”</p> <p>I tell them 6) _____</p> <p>“Que será, será Whatever will be, will be The future’s not ours to see Que será, será What will be, will be”</p> <p>Que será, será</p>
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Listen and discuss

Work in groups and share your understanding of the expression “Whatever will be, will be.” Do you agree with this mindset? What is the balance between “putting no limits on your expectations” and “Whatever will be, will be”?

It's OK to be good enough *and* not great

- 1 What if **striving** to be great is what's holding you back?
- 2 “Good is the enemy of great”¹ is one of the most popular self-improvement expressions. It's the first sentence of an international **best-selling** business book, the title of another self-help book, and the belief that NFL² superstar J.J. Watt has shared in **press conferences**. It sounds **appealing** and rolls off the **tongue** nicely, but there's a good chance it's totally wrong.
- 3 We're told that striving to be great and never being satisfied are necessary to meet the ever-increasing pressures and pace of today's world. It's the **only** route to success. But what is it all for? What does success even mean? Rates of anxiety and **depression** are higher than ever. Some experts believe that loneliness and social **isolation** have become widespread. Two-thirds of all **employees** report feeling burned out at work. Surely this isn't the kind of success that everyone is after.
- 4 An Eastern **philosopher** once suggests that true success means feeling content with the **unfolding** of your life. It is “finding happiness in your work and life, in the here

Notes

- 1 “Good is the enemy of great” is the first sentence from *Good to Great*, the best-selling book by Jim Collins, an American researcher, author, speaker, and consultant, who focuses on the subject of business management and company growth.
 - 2 The NFL is short for the National Football League, the organization in charge of the highest level of professional American football in the US.
-



and now.” The kind of success that he champions³ isn’t about striving to be great all the time. It’s about being at least OK with where you are, about accepting being good enough. What’s interesting is that not always trying so hard to be great isn’t just the path to being happier; it’s also the path to getting better.

- 5 This **mindset** improves confidence and releases pressure because you don’t always feel like you’re coming up short. It also **lessens** the risk of injury — **emotional** and physical — since there isn’t a **perceived** need to make **heroic** efforts every day. The result is more **consistent** performance that adds up over time. Research shows that **sustainable** progress, in everything from diet to **fitness** to **creativity**, isn’t about being consistently great; it’s about being good enough over and over again.
- 6 A wonderful case study is Eliud Kipchoge, who has just broken the **marathon** world record. He’s **literally** the best in the world at what he does. Yet Kipchoge says that the key to his success is not **overextending** himself in training. He’s not **obsessed** with being great all the time. Instead, he tries his best to be always good enough. He recently told *The New York Times* that he rarely, if ever, pushes himself past 80 percent — 90 percent at most — of his **maximum** effort during **workouts**. This allows Kipchoge to string together weeks and weeks of consistent training. “I want to run with a relaxed mind,” he says.
- 7 **Unlike** so many other runners who have tried and failed to break the world marathon record, Kipchoge has never been obsessed with the mark. Prior to his record-setting race, when asked about his mindset, he told *The Times*, “To be precise, I am just going to try to run my personal best. If it comes as a world record, I would appreciate it. But I would treat it as a personal best.” Kipchoge puts running in its place, which, for him, is in the here and now, not in striving to meet ever-increasing expectations. “When I run,” he says, “I feel good. My mind feels good. I sleep in a free way, and I enjoy life.”
- 8 It’s a **paradox**. A “good-enough” mindset might very well be the key to being great and happy. The less you want to be happy, the happier you’ll be. The less you need to **perform** well, the better you’ll perform. Just think about your own life. During the times you were happiest and performed best, were you striving? Were you **chasing** after something? Or were you more like Kipchoge — **grounded**, at peace, and feeling good enough about what was in front of you? This doesn’t mean you should never desire **productive** change or improvement. Quite the opposite, actually. Though it may run counter to so much of the current **ethos**, adopting the core principle of “good enough” is likely the best route to being happier and getting better.

Notes

- 3 Here “champion” is used as a verb, meaning “publicly fight for and defend an aim or principle, such as the rights of a group of people.”
e.g. *She championed the cause of animal rights.*
-



Read and understand

Global understanding

Read the passage and complete the summary by filling in each blank with a word from the passage.

Popular notion has it that the only path to success lies in striving to be great and never being 1) _____. However, others suggest that true success means being at least OK with where one is and 2) _____ being good enough. To their way of thinking, this mindset can not only improve 3) _____ and release pressure but also 4) _____ the risk of emotional and physical injury. As a result, one will achieve 5) _____ progress due to their idea of being always good enough. A good case in point is Eliud Kipchoge, literally today's best 6) _____ runner in the world. He says that his remarkable record-setting performance arises from his consistent efforts to be good enough rather than 7) _____ himself during workouts. In fact, running, for him, is not in striving to live up to ever-increasing 8) _____, but in the here and now. In a word, though a "good-enough" mindset may be the 9) _____ of much of the current ethos, it may well help you feel happier and 10) _____ better.

Detailed understanding

Read the passage again and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- ____ 1. J.J. Watt holds the belief that in order to achieve success, one should strive to be great.
- ____ 2. The author mentions higher rates of anxiety and depression to imply that "striving to be great" may produce negative effects.
- ____ 3. The mindset of not always trying to be great helps release stress because you just need to make the best possible choice.
- ____ 4. Eliud Kipchoge is 100 percent devoted to his training in order to run his personal best.
- ____ 5. A "good-enough" mindset means you should never desire productive change or improvement.

Read and think

What defines a “good-enough” mindset?

Step
① Read through the passage again and find out the defining features of a “good-enough” mindset.

Step
② Below is a list of attitudes and behaviors related to success. Work in groups and discuss which of the following are characteristic of a “good-enough” mindset according to what you’ve got in Step 1.

1. Focus on making the most of today.
2. Always strive to do your best.
3. Always compare yourself to others.
4. Be content with what you have or who you are.
5. Have an extreme fear of failure.
6. Take real pleasure in the process of achieving something.
7. Adapt yourself to the fast pace of today’s world.

Step
③ In the last paragraph of the passage, the author suggests that “a ‘good-enough’ mindset might very well be the key to being great and happy.” Do you agree with this statement? Use the defining features of a “good-enough” mindset you have summarized from the passage and your own experience to justify your answer.

Paradox

Step
① There are a lot of things in life that don’t appear to make much sense on the surface. But once you take a closer look, you realize that there is some substance there after all. They are known as paradoxes. In this passage, the author says that a “good-enough” mindset is a paradox. In what way do you think it is a paradox?

Step
② Work in groups and discuss your understanding of the following paradoxes.

1. The more choices we have, the harder it is to choose.
2. The more you learn, the more you realize how little you know.
3. The more something scares you, the more you should probably do it.
4. The more connected we get, the more isolated we feel.
5. The more you’re afraid to fail, the more likely you are to fail.

Read and practice

Word building

Complete the sentences with the proper form of the words given in brackets.

1. The Spring Festival is celebrated with _____, gifts, and meals that feature foods with symbolic meanings. (decorate)
2. Several people had experienced the same feeling of _____ when they slept in that room. (oppress)
3. For many of us, _____ means providing ideas that lead to significant discoveries and achievements. (innovate)
4. I have a _____ to make — I've lost that book you lent me. (confess)
5. The school sees its job as preparing students to make a _____ to society. (contribute)
6. At a job interview, you have just a few seconds to make a good first _____ and establish yourself as the successful person you strive to be. (impress)

suffix: -ion

1. A verb that ends with “-te” or “-ate” can very often become a noun with the “-ion” suffix. When this is the case, “-ion” replaces the silent “e” of the base word. For example, “appreciate” is changed into “appreciation,” “isolate” into “isolation,” and “pollute” into “pollution.”
2. A verb that ends with double “s” will simply take “-ion” in the end with no other changes to the word’s spelling. For example, “express” is changed into “expression,” “depress” into “depression,” and “obsess” into “obsession.”

Expressions

Complete the sentences with expressions from the box. Change the form if necessary.

add up	be obsessed with	chase after	come up short
hold back	roll off the tongue	run counter to	string together

1. Send out consistent and clear messages about the values of your organization, even if some of them _____ those of the young generation.
2. When giving the name of your start-up, aim for two- or three-syllable words — names like Apple, Google, and Yahoo _____.
3. Envy will use up your mental strength and _____ you _____ from realizing your greatest potential.
4. Learning how to _____ facts from different sources has been a tremendous help for my academic study.
5. You don't need to surf the Internet to find “success stories” about people who quit their jobs to _____ their dreams.
6. If you have a negative mindset, you will most likely _____.
7. Spend at least 20 minutes each night reading a book or an article, and you'll be surprised by how that little bit of effort will _____.
8. The young writer _____ the ranking of his new book and wanted to be listed as a best-selling author.

Language in use

Complete the sentences by translating the Chinese in brackets into English.

1. Life is made of moments that are ever-changing, so we _____
(应该努力活在当下).
2. Our world becomes more complex day by day and _____
(技术以越来越快的速度在发展).
3. Leadership is, at its core, _____ (规划成功最佳路线的能力).
4. Success is ultimately achieved when you feel that you've reached your goals and _____
(对自己的现状感到满意).
5. It's appealing to set big goals, but _____ (为了取得可持续发展的), it is better to begin with manageable goals.
6. Not everyone is brave to admit they have made mistakes _____
(在找到生活的方向之前).

Read and translate

Translate the sentences into Chinese.

1. However you define success, it is something that nearly everyone is after.
2. Don't give up your ambition easily when reality goes counter to your expectations and plans.
3. Ambition isn't about never failing but about getting up when you fall.
4. We should strive for a balance between what is realistic and what is challenging when setting a goal.
5. Realizing your true potential might very well be determined by one factor: persistence.
6. The more you believe in yourself, the more likely you'll achieve success.



Additional
translation skills

Conduct an interview

How to make it in college



To help freshmen develop an optimal plan for their college life, the Student Union is organizing a theme activity on how to make it in college. You are supposed to give a presentation on how to make the best of college life on the basis of interviews with some fourth-year college students.

Step 1 Brainstorm interview questions

- 1 Work in groups of four or five and brainstorm possible interview questions related to college life. The following are some examples for your reference.
 - What was your ambition in your freshman year?
 - Have you realized your ambition in college?
 - What was your biggest challenge in college and how did you deal with it?
 - How did you map out the path to your successful college life?
 - What advice will you offer to freshmen?

Step 2 Conduct the interview

- 2 Interview at least three fourth-year college students. At your interview, you may ask them to recall and evaluate their college life and offer helpful suggestions on how to achieve success in college.

Step 3 Analyze interview data

- 3 Analyze interview data with your group members and make a summary of the main points accordingly.

Step 4 Give a presentation

- 4 Develop an optimal plan for a successful college life based on your interview data and present it to the whole class.