

Lesson 1: Vocabulary

Part 1

Write the words from the box to complete each phrase.

get have the make the overcome take have make face

1. _____ a risk
2. _____ a change
3. _____ an obstacle
4. _____ into
5. _____ opportunity to
6. _____ a challenge
7. _____ decision to
8. _____ a setback

Part 2

Write the completed expressions from Part 1 to complete the conversations. Use each expression once. You may have to change the forms of the words. In class, practice the conversations with a partner.

1. A: I hear that Matteo overcame an obstacle last week.
B: Yeah. He has been wanting to _____ acting, but people told him he wasn't good-looking enough. Instead of letting that stop him, Matteo worked on his facial expressions, and the same people who told him he wasn't good-looking enough hired him!
2. A: Oh, that reminds me. Wendy tells me that you _____ during your vacation.
B: Yeah! I was on a cruise and I was really sick. I had a hard time enjoying my vacation!
3. A: Collin tells me that Steve _____ at work.
B: That's for sure. He didn't get the promotion he was expecting. He said it was one of the biggest challenges he's ever faced because he'd been working toward the new position for two years.
4. A: I hear you are _____. What are you going to do different?
B: Well, I'm going to move overseas. It's one of the most exciting things I've ever done.
5. A: Hi, Carlos. I hear that you _____ go back to college, and you graduated last week. I had no idea you were studying and working at the same time! Congratulations!
B: Thanks. In my company, we _____ get part of the tuition paid, so I decided to do it. It was hard, but it turned out to be the best thing I've ever done.
6. A: I hear that you _____ a few years ago, but it's really paying off now.
B: That's right. It was scary at the time, but it turned out to be worth the uncertainty.

Part 1

Read the article below.

A Big Break

Have you ever had a setback turn into a big break? That's what happened to Fred R. Conrad. Conrad is a photographer. One day, he had several work assignments. First, he had to take a portrait of a chef in Manhattan. And portraits require a lot of heavy equipment. Then he had to travel to Brooklyn to photograph a diner. Both places are in New York, so he got around by taking the subway. That's when he had some bad luck. The train he boarded didn't go to Brooklyn. He got as far as the tip of Manhattan before he realized his mistake. Then he had to go back to get on another train while lugging all of his heavy photographic equipment. As he sat in the

station waiting for the correct train, now late and frustrated, he saw a wonderful sight.

Across the platform from him, waiting for a train going in the other direction, sat a man completely surrounded by balloons. Conrad couldn't even see the man, only dozens of brightly colored balloons. Fortunately, he had everything he needed to take a great photo. So he did. The photo was so good that it was published in the *New York Times* the very next day. Then the *Times* covered the story of the picture. It turned out to be the best thing that ever happened to him. Of course, making the decision to take the picture had its downside—Conrad missed his train!

Mark the statements T (true) or F (false).

- _____ 1. Conrad is a chef.
- _____ 2. You need more equipment to make a photographic portrait than you do for other kinds of photos.
- _____ 3. Conrad had to travel from Brooklyn to Manhattan.
- _____ 4. He ended up on the wrong subway.
- _____ 5. He had to go back to another station.
- _____ 6. He saw a man delivering dozens of flowers.
- _____ 7. The picture he took was published in the *Washington Post*.
- _____ 8. He missed the train he was supposed to take.

PAIR WORK Discuss the questions.

1. Do stories like this one often get in the news? Why or why not?
 2. Do you think people make their own luck?
- Have you ever been in the right place at the right time? What happened?

Part 2

Write an article about a story you know when someone had a big break.

Part 3

Exchange your article with a classmate. Are there any similarities?