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The Secret of Success

1. Sing-Along and Read-Along with Me

There once was a student about to graduate who sought an old professor for some advice.

He said, "You have taught me so much over the years. Please tell me how to succeed in my career."

"Show up on time," was all the old man chose to say. And with that sound advice, he sent him on his way.

With that advice in mind, the man was never late. After months with no progress, he began to worry.

He went to his teacher, wanting success somehow. "Please, dear professor! What should I do now?"

"You've learned a good lesson," said the man with a smirk, "But next time you show up, please be prepared to work!"

After that, the young man did not just come on time. He worked hard and smart; he made sure he earned each dime.

He still did not progress through the ranks at his work. He decided to contact his professor.

“Do you try your best, or do you just work very hard?”
The professor asked wisely, catching the man off-guard.

The man returned to work and carried out each task smartly and efficiently, yet proceeds to ask,

“Professor, why am I still not a great success?”
The professor faced him and gave his best guess.

“Friend, you know success does not happen overnight. Be patient, don’t give up, and keep your goal in sight!”

2. Vocabulary

	English	Definitions
1.	Graduate	To receive an academic degree upon the completion of one's studies
2.	Sought	Past tense of "seek" – searched for
3.	Professor	A "professor" is a teacher at the college level.
4.	Progress	Gradual improvement, growth, or development in a given area
5.	Smirk	A crooked, smug smile
6.	Contact	In this context, to "contact" means to get in touch with.
7.	Catching...off-guard	To "catch someone off-guard" means to stun or surprise someone through unexpected words or actions.
8.	Efficiently	Without wasted time or effort; with "minimum input and maximum output"
9.	Guess	An estimation
10.	...does not happen overnight	An expression meaning most things take a while to happen

3. Grammar Section

Using Not and Other Negative Words

Not expresses a negative idea. It follows an auxiliary verb or *be*. Sometimes there is more than one auxiliary verb. In these cases, *not* goes after the first one. For example:

- I was *not* gone yet.

In order to make a simple present verb negative (except *be*), you need to use *do* or *does* with *not*. For example:

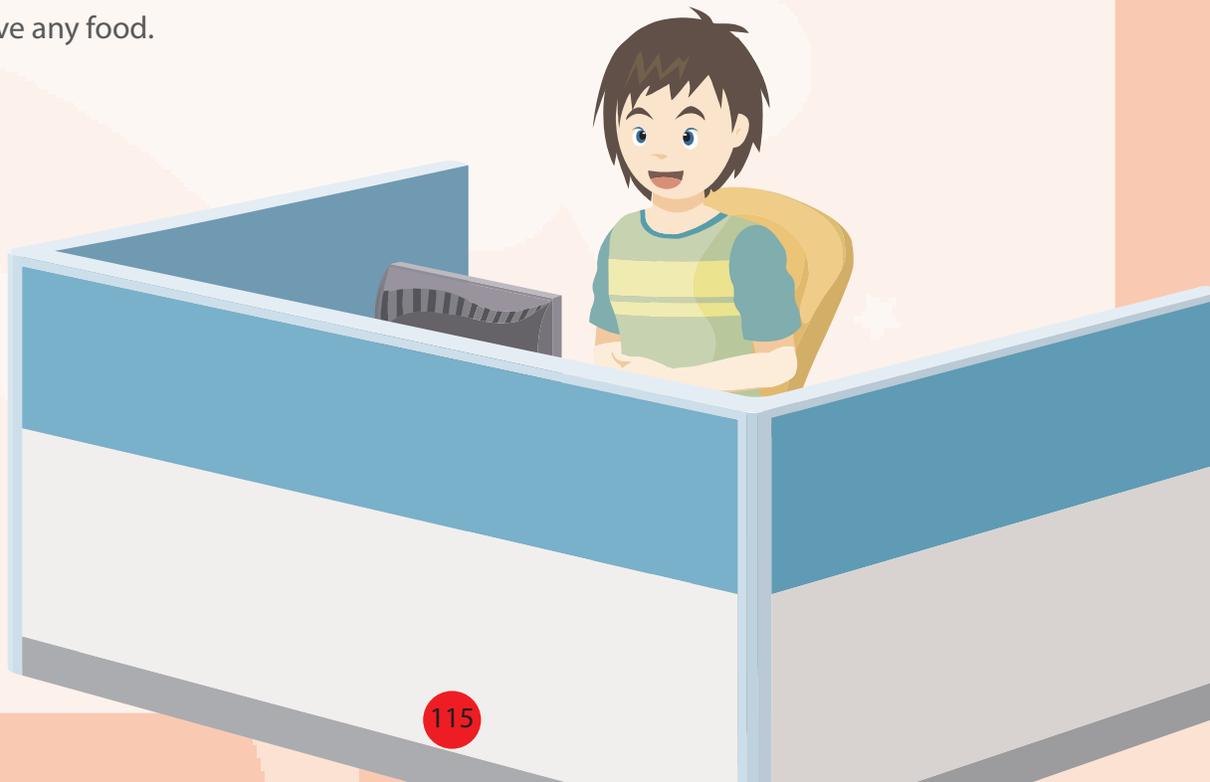
- I *do not* go to store by myself.

In order to make a simple past verb negative (except *be*), you need to use *did* with *not*. For example:

- I *did not* go to the bank yet.

You can also use *never*, *rarely*, *seldom*, *hardly*, *scarcely*, *barely*, and *no* to express negative ideas. *Not* is used to make a verb negative. *No* is used as an adjective in front of a noun. Some examples are:

- I have *never* gone to the zoo.
- I *seldom* go to the park.
- I *barely* know how to bake a cake.
- I have *no* food!
- I *do not* have any food.



4. Conversation

After four years at college, it was finally time for Xander to graduate. He was slightly nervous about venturing into the world for the first time, and interviewing for jobs. In a thoughtful moment, he remembered a childhood friend of his family's – a professor. He decided to contact the old family friend. He sought the man because he felt that he might offer useful advice.

The professor invited Xander in, offering him a seat and a cup of tea. "I understand you're about to graduate," the old man said excitedly. "Have you made progress in your studies over the years?"

"Yes," Xander said with a smirk, proud of himself in this respect.

"But," said the professor, catching Xander off-guard, "you haven't a clue what you want to do next, do you?"

Xander's mouth became a wide "O". "No," he said, as if realizing it for the first time. "I don't."

"What's the secret of success?" the professor asked casually.

"I'm not really sure."

"I know what the secret of success is. It's applicable to you because it applies in every job, and in any effort you make whatsoever. Can you guess what it is, Xander?"

"I'd guess it might have to do with efficiency," Xander shrugged.

"That's actually very close," said the professor. You need to work hard and work smart, which amounts to efficiency. But there is a third part to the secret of success as well."

"What is that?"

"No matter how long it takes to succeed, and no matter what complications arise along the way, you must NEVER, EVER give up! Remember, success does not happen overnight."

"Okay," Xander said. "Thank you for having me over, and for talking with me." He left the professor's house. "Work hard, work smart, and never give up," he repeated to himself as he walked home. Throughout his life, Xander never stopped repeating that mantra and today he is well on his way to success.

5. Exercise

1. Song Review

Answer the following questions, based off of the song from earlier, without looking to see how much you remember. Once you've done that, go through it again and check your answers to see how many you got right.

1. The first time the student sought out the professor, had he graduated yet?

2. What was the first piece of advice the professor gave?

3. Did he succeed after this?

4. What was the next piece of advice the professor gave?

5. After that how did the young man work?

6. Was he successful after that?

7. What was the reason the professor gave for not yet being a success?

2. Conversation

Pair up and create a small conversation using the negative words we have just learned. Then perform the skit in front of the class. Be creative and have fun.

3. Story Time!

Write a short story talking about a success you've had in your life, whether it be in school, at home, or with friends. When you're done share it with the class. Use as many vocabulary words and negative words as possible.

