

# 4A Failure and success

## 1 GRAMMAR *can, could, be able to*

a Circle the correct form. Tick (✓) if both are correct.

- 1 She *can* / *is able to* swim really well because she used to live by the sea. ✓
- 2 You need to *can* / *be able to* drive to live in the country.
- 3 Luke *could* / *was able to* read when he was only three years old.
- 4 If it doesn't rain tomorrow, *we can* / *we'll be able to* go for a long walk.
- 5 Sorry, I've been so busy that I *haven't could* / *haven't been able to* call until now.
- 6 If Millie had a less demanding job, she *could* / *would be able to* enjoy life more.
- 7 I've never *could* / *been able to* dance well, but I'd love to learn.
- 8 We're really sorry we *couldn't* / *weren't able to* come to your wedding.
- 9 I *used to can* / *used to be able to* speak a bit of Polish, but I've forgotten most of it now.
- 10 *Can you* / *Will you be able to* make the dinner tonight?
- 11 To work for this company, you *must can* / *must be able to* speak at least three languages.
- 12 I hate *not can* / *not being able to* communicate with the local people when I'm travelling.

b Read Matthew Banks' CV. Then complete the sentences with the correct form of *can, could* or *be able to*.

- 1 Matthew can sail.
- 2 He \_\_\_\_\_ speak a little Chinese when he started working in Hong Kong.
- 3 He \_\_\_\_\_ speak German.
- 4 He \_\_\_\_\_ design websites since 1999.
- 5 He'd like \_\_\_\_\_ speak Russian.
- 6 He \_\_\_\_\_ finish his PhD before he left the USA.
- 7 He \_\_\_\_\_ speak a little Russian soon.

**Name:** Matthew Banks

**Date of Birth:** 22/09/1980

### Qualifications

Degree in French with Marketing (2003)  
Master's in Business Administration (2006)  
Started Ph.D in Business (2009) – incomplete

### Work Experience

**1998–2000:** Trainer and Operator with Texas Instruments, London  
**2003–2009:** Assistant then Marketing Manager, Texas Instruments, Dallas, USA  
**2009–present:** Managing Director, AHH Marketing Services Ltd, Hong Kong

### Other Skills

IT skills – advanced. Course in web design 1999.  
Full driving licence

### Languages

French (fluent) Chinese (basic) certificate 2008  
I hope to start Russian classes next January.

### Hobbies and Interests

Watersports, especially sailing and windsurfing



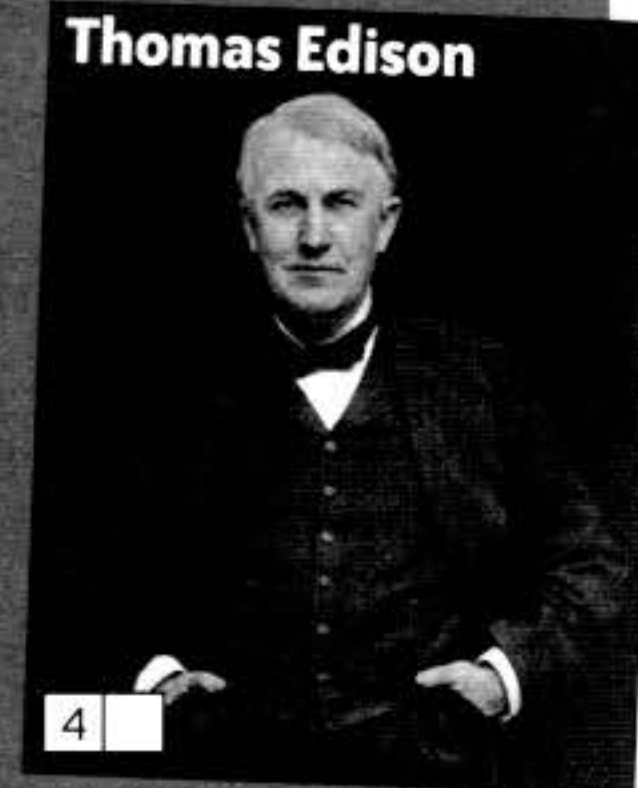
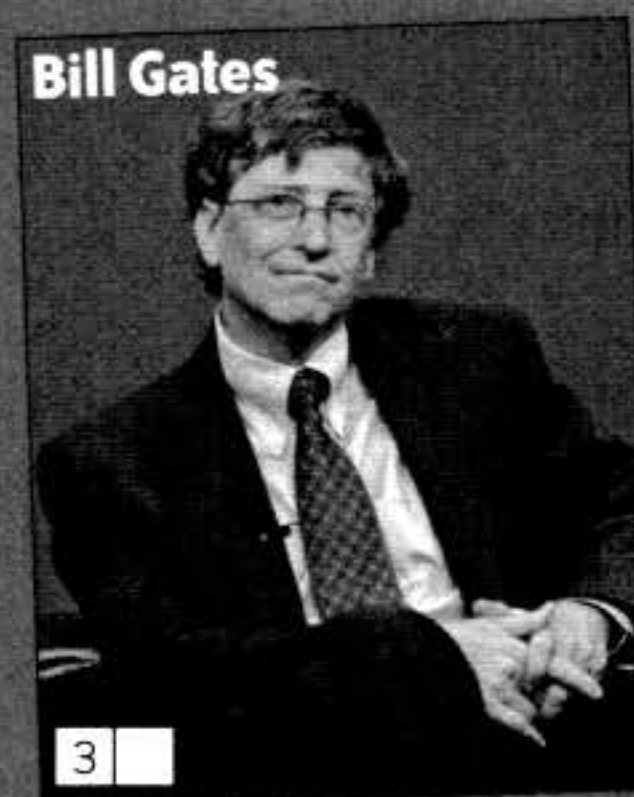
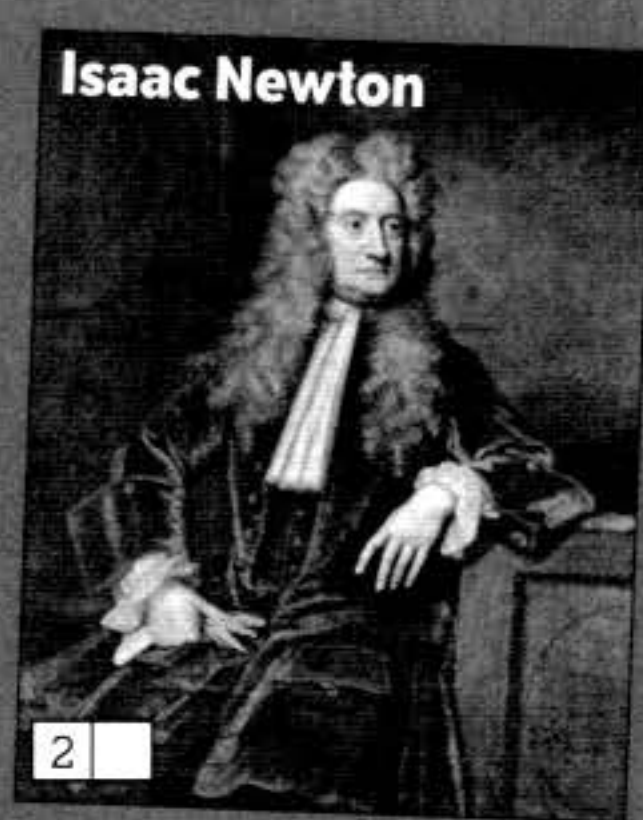
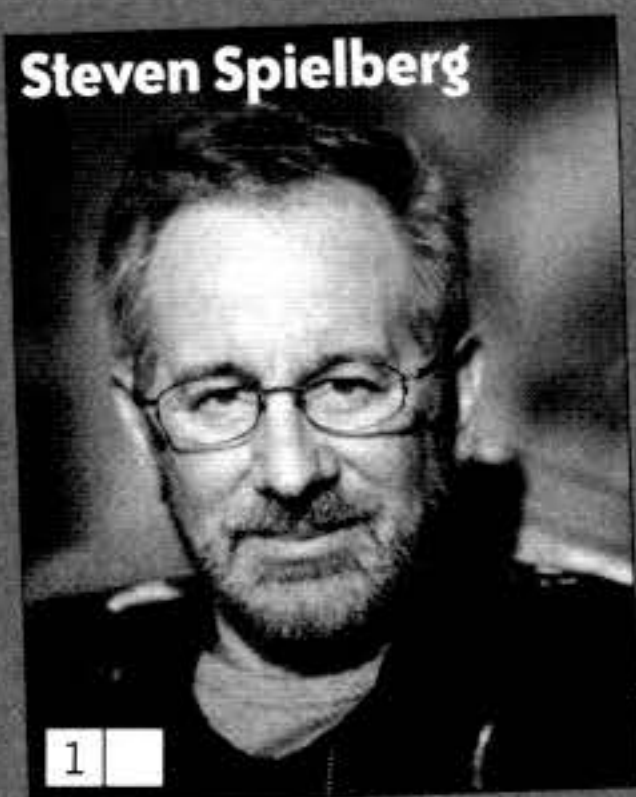
## 2 PRONUNCIATION sentence stress

**iChecker** Listen and repeat the sentences. Copy the rhythm.

- 1 She can **sing** very well.
- 2 I've **never** been able to **ski**.
- 3 Can you **read** a **map**?
- 4 You won't **be able** to **go out** tomorrow.
- 5 He hasn't **been able** to **walk very fast** since he **hurt** his **leg**.
- 6 They aren't **able** to **come** tonight.

### 3 READING

a Read the article once and match the paragraphs A–D with the photos 1–4.



## Failure: the first step towards success

Many people who have found success started out by failing. Below are four of the most famous.

**A** Some people consider this man to be the greatest scientist that has ever lived. However, his early life was nothing special. He was very small as a child and he was a very poor student. When he was twelve, his mother took him out of school so that he could learn how to run the family farm. Unfortunately, he wasn't very good at that either, so in the end he was sent back to school. After **eventually** passing his exams, he went to Cambridge University where he became a brilliant scholar. Later, he developed his law of gravity.

**B** This man is one of the most famous inventors of all time, which is incredible when you think he only went to school for three months. After his teacher **lost patience** with him, his mother taught him from home and he learnt many important lessons from reading books. His working life started as badly as his schooling had, and he **was fired** from his first two jobs. However, this gave him more time to experiment – by the end of his life he had invented over a thousand devices. His most famous invention was a certain type of light bulb.

**C** Ask anyone to name the most famous film director in Hollywood and many of them will say this man's name. However, his career in cinema started badly, as he was rejected three times from film school. He eventually started his studies at a different school, but he **dropped out** to become a director before he had finished. Since then he has won the Oscar for Best Director twice and three of his films have broken **box office** records. He went back to school in 2002 to finish his studies and earn his BA degree.

**D** Although he is one of the most successful businessmen and computer programmers of all time, this man didn't actually finish university. He was very bright at school and went to Harvard University, but he spent most of his time using the university's computers for his own projects and didn't do much studying. After dropping out, he decided to start his own company with a friend. This company failed, but he persisted and won a contract with IBM which eventually resulted in his company becoming one of the most powerful and recognized **brands** in the world today.

**b** Read the article again. Mark the sentences T (true) or F (false).

- 1 Isaac Newton nearly became a farmer. T
- 2 He was never a very good student. —
- 3 Thomas Edison missed three months of school when he was a child. —
- 4 He didn't make a good impression on his bosses at the start of his working life. —
- 5 Steven Spielberg couldn't go to the film school he wanted to. —
- 6 He has never finished his university course. —
- 7 Bill Gates failed university. —
- 8 His first company wasn't successful. —

**c** Look at the **highlighted** words and phrases. What do you think they mean? Use your dictionary to look up their meaning and pronunciation.

**d** Complete the sentences with one of the **highlighted** words or phrases.

- 1 The child's parents lost patience with her and sent her to her room.
- 2 He wasn't enjoying university, so he \_\_\_\_\_ after the first year.
- 3 After several months, she \_\_\_\_\_ managed to persuade her boyfriend to see an opera.
- 4 My colleague \_\_\_\_\_ for sending personal emails from work.
- 5 My husband refuses to buy expensive \_\_\_\_\_ of clothing.
- 6 There was an enormous queue at the \_\_\_\_\_ because it was the opening night of the film.

#### 4 VOCABULARY -ed / -ing adjectives

a Right (✓) or wrong (X)? Correct the wrong adjectives.

- My sister can't swim. She's **frightening** of the water.   
*frightened*
- Looking after small children can be very **tired**.
- His exam results were very **disappointing**.
- I was very **embarrassed** when my phone rang in the meeting.
- Clare was very **surprising** because she didn't know they were coming.
- We took lots of photos because the view was so **amazing**.
- Are you **interested** in motor racing?
- She felt **frustrating** because she couldn't get on the surf board.

b Complete the sentences with the correct form of the adjectives in brackets.

- I enjoyed the book, but the film was a bit *boring*. (bored / boring)
- I felt very \_\_\_\_\_ when I realized my mistake. (embarrassed / embarrassing)
- He's \_\_\_\_\_ of dogs. He can't go anywhere near them. (frightened / frightening)
- The final quarter of the match was really \_\_\_\_\_. (excited / exciting)
- We haven't heard from her since she arrived in Bangkok – it's very \_\_\_\_\_. (worried / worrying)
- Your trip sounds really \_\_\_\_\_ – tell me more! (interested / interesting)
- I'm fed up with this terrible weather – it's so \_\_\_\_\_. (depressed / depressing)
- Max was very \_\_\_\_\_ when he wasn't chosen for the job. (disappointed / disappointing)

c Circle the -ed adjectives in exercise b where -ed is pronounced /ɪd/.

#### Reflexive pronouns

d Complete the sentences with the correct word.

- The best way to get healthy is to make *yourself* do exercise every day.
- Jon and Harry help \_\_\_\_\_ to food whenever they come to my house.
- Helena painted the bathroom \_\_\_\_\_.
- The computer turns \_\_\_\_\_ off if nobody uses it for a while.
- I always sing to \_\_\_\_\_ when I'm in the shower.
- We found the flat \_\_\_\_\_, without any help from a company.

#### 5 LISTENING

a **iChecker** You are going to hear five speakers talking about mistakes they have made in a foreign language. Listen and complete the sentences.

- Speaker 1 was speaking *French* to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Speaker 2 was speaking \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Speaker 3 was speaking \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Speaker 4 was speaking \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Speaker 5 was speaking \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

b Listen again and complete the table.

	What they wanted to say	What they actually said
Speaker 1	<i>inhaler</i>	_____
Speaker 2	_____	_____
Speaker 3	_____	_____
Speaker 4	_____	_____
Speaker 5	_____	_____

c Listen again with the audioscript on p.71.

#### USEFUL WORDS AND PHRASES

Learn these words and phrases.

- link /lɪŋk/  
 scuba-dive /'sku:bə daɪv/  
 skills /skɪlz/  
 (dance) steps /steps/  
 multilingual /mʌlti'liŋgwəl/  
 fluently /'flu:əntli/  
 basic phrases /beɪsɪk 'freɪzɪz/  
 language barrier /'læŋgwɪdʒ bæriə/  
 teach-yourself books /'ti:tʃ jə'self bʊks/  
 more exceptions than rules /mɔːr ɪk'sepʃnz ðən ru:lz/