



## OBSTACLES ARE STEPPING STONES OF SUCCESS

**Dr. Abraham P Abraham**  
Professor of English

There is a well known story about a man who was walking in the park one day when he came upon a cocoon with a small opening. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through the little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It looked like it had reached as far as it could, so the man decided to help the butterfly. He used his pocketknife and snipped the remaining bit of the cocoon.

The butterfly then emerged easily, but something was strange. The butterfly had a swollen body and shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected at any moment the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened. In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and deformed wings. It was never able to fly.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to emerge was natural. It was nature's way of forcing fluid from its body into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom. Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our lives.

If we were allowed to go through life without any obstacles, we would be crippled. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. And we could never fly. So, obstacles are a part of life. Life minus obstacles is meaningless. It all depends on how one faces them. Some time ago one of my friends told me "Show me someone who has done something worthwhile, and I'll show you someone who has overcome adversity."

History shows us that the most celebrated winners usually have encountered heartbreaking obstacles before they triumphed. They won because they refused to become discouraged by their defeats.

Beethoven composed his greatest works after becoming deaf. George Washington was snowed in through a treacherous winter at Valley Forge. Abraham Lincoln was raised in poverty. Albert Einstein was called a slow learner, and retarded. If Christopher Columbus had turned back, no one could have blamed him, considering the constant adversity he had to face.

Chester Carlson, a young inventor, took his idea to 20 big corporations in the 1940s. After seven years of rejections, he was able to persuade Haloid, a small company in New York to purchase the rights to his electrostatic paper- copying process. Haloid has since become the Xerox Corporation.

Thomas Edison tried over 2,000 experiments before he was able to get his light bulb to work. Upon being asked how he felt about failing so many times, he replied, "I never failed once. I invented the light bulb. It just happened to be a 2,000-step process."

Franklin Roosevelt, elected President of the United States for four terms, had been stricken with polio at the age of 39.

Persistence paid off for General Douglas MacArthur. After applying for admission to West Point twice, he applied a third time and was accepted. The rest is history.

Academy Award-winning writer, producer and director Woody Allen failed motion picture production at New York University (NYU) and City College of New York. He also flunked English at the college.

Helen Keller, the famous blind writer said: "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved. Silver is purified in fire and so are we. It is in the most trying times that our real character is shaped and revealed." Many other examples like the above can be pointed out from life. So, be brave, do not fear failures and never feel defeated. There is no education like the university of adversity. "All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of one candle" I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something, but because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do. Don't ever forget how very important you are in this world and that ONE PERSON IS VERY IMPORTANT TO GOD TOO.

Some time ago I came across an anonymous poem that I'd like to share with you:

One song can spark a moment  
One flower can wake the dream  
One bird can herald spring  
One smile begins a friendship  
One handclasp lifts a soul  
One star can guide a ship at sea  
One word can frame the goal  
One vote can change a nation  
One sunbeam can light a room  
One candle can wipe out darkness  
One laugh will conquer gloom  
One step must start each journey  
One word must start each prayer  
One hope will raise our spirits  
One touch can show you care  
One voice can speak with wisdom  
One heart can know what is true  
One life can make a difference  
You see it is up to you!

Hi friends,

## Everyday is New

Yes! Everyday is new, with a new smile, new hope, new aim and new end. Yesterday had passed, but today is here waiting for your new work. Today is in your hand so you have the right to enjoy and fulfill your purposes. You are supposed to get up with an amazing smile, with a hopeful Self. There are no reasons and excuses for you to think about yesterday. Thus, it is great to make all the best of your day!

Forget yesterday and catch what you have missed. Your life is yours. No one can live your life. Only, you have to. So LIVE YOUR LIFE. As successful people do, you can do too. No one is better than you. You deserve to be happy and comfortable but it won't happen unless you believe that EVERYDAY IS NEW.

This semester is new; therefore you should work better than last semester. You should change your attitude towards things which weren't good, especially your ways of studying.

Eventually, you should be thankful to ALLAH because He is giving you new day to live and enjoy; so Smile and work hard towards your goals. Yes; it is really iEveryday is New!

Written by: Laila Ibrahim Obaid Ali Gharbi.  
English Translation

## Dear Time Readers 3

Hi DT Readers,

It's O.K. to learn English. But do you...? Do you...?

Universities in Oman offer one-year Foundation Programme, of course, to prepare you for the forthcoming four-years of studying, learning and researching in English, in the campus. All the Foreign Language Teachers tend to give you all a relishing Recipe to make your Life better, with more English knowledge. Now, having the recipe in your hands, it's time for you to show "variety", out of it. Variety??? With a Language!!! Once you are out for shopping, what do you buy? Pens, Shoes, Fashion Outfits, Mobile phones, even a new car every year. No Doubt, you use your new pen everyday; you beat the heat with your new shoes; Certainly, today's girls are all trendsetters with their dashing outfits; and, boys roam around with the latest model cars. Mobile phones are multi-purpose instruments in the hands of youth. Anything you buy, you use it. Good Policy!! Keep it Up. We are talking about, Utility, usefulness of something. This includes the point of maintenance, as well. A 2 year-old shoes/dress looks pretty new on you. I appreciate the amount of "care" you put in that. Even you skip your breakfast, sometimes; You never forget to charge/recharge your mobile phones every other day. Quite Responsible! I appreciate, too. A passing question in my mind. Do you do this with your English Language? I wait to listen students conversing in English, whenever I pass by Classroom Corridors, Canteen, Supermarket, Library, Retiring Room. I am not lucky enough to see my students using English, off the classrooms. Don't be upset. Here are some tips: As you charge your mobiles, charge the new language you have learnt, with new words everyday. As you polish your shoes, polish your language, too, by correcting errors in your speech. Hi Boys, your cars need to be fuelled on time. Similarly, fuel your English Language with some more efforts. Feel the advantage of knowing English. Functional knowledge makes your learning easier. The moment you step into University Campus, wear English on you. Wherever you go, whatever you talk, to whomsoever you talk to, UTILISE ENGLISH. And FEEL THE DIFFERENCE.

Mrs. UmaGRajan  
Lecturer English Section