

# FAILURE

## *Defeat and Error*

### 1. ESSENCE

- 1249 Men do not fail; they give up trying.  
Elihu Root (1845-1937)
- 1250 Failure - The man who can tell others what to do and how to do it, but never does it himself.  
Elbert Hubbard (1859-1915)

### 2. OPPOSITES

- 1251 People in their handlings of affairs often fail when they are about to succeed.  
If one remains as careful at the end as he was at the beginning, there will be no failure.  
Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)
- 1252 There are some defeats more triumphant than victories.  
Montaigne (1533-1592)
- 1253 One seldom rushes into a single error. Rushing into the first one, one always does too much. Hence one usually commits another; and this time does too little.  
Nietzsche (1844-1900)
- 1254 In this world there are only two tragedies. One is not getting what one wants, and the other is getting it. The last is much the worst; the last is a real tragedy!  
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

### 3. INSIGHT

- 1255 Defeat ensues when others interfere with the authority of the chosen leader. Divided command is often fatal.  
I Ching (B.C. 1150?)
- 1256 Few things are impracticable in themselves. It is for want of application, rather than of means, that men fail.  
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 1257 There are few, very few, that will own themselves in a mistake.  
Swift (1667-1745)
- 1258 Failure is more frequently from want of energy than want of capital.  
Daniel Webster (1782-1852)

- 1259 He only is exempt from failures who makes no efforts.  
Richard Whately (1787-1863)
- 1260 A failure establishes only this,  
that our determination to succeed was not strong enough.  
Bovee (1820-1904)
- 1261 The only real failure in life  
is not to be true to the best one knows.  
Farrar (1831-1903)
- 1262 Show me a thoroughly satisfied man - and I will show  
you a failure.  
Thomas A. Edison (1847-1931)
- 1263 A lost battle is a battle one thinks one has lost.  
Ferdinand Foch (1851-1929)
- 1264 Experience is the name everyone gives to his mistakes.  
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)
- 1265 No man is a failure who is enjoying life.  
William Feather (born 1888)
- 1266 If the first words fail...  
Ten thousand will not then avail.  
Chinese Proverb

#### 4. POSITIVE

- 1267 What is defeat? Nothing but education;  
nothing but the first step to something better.  
Wendell Phillips (1811-1884)
- 1268 How far high failure overleaps the bound of low successes.  
Lewis Morris (1835-1907)
- 1269 "All honor to him who shall win the prize,"  
The world has cried for a thousand years;  
But to him who tries and fails and dies,  
I give great honor and glory and tears.  
Joaquin Miller (1839-1913)
- 1270 Sometimes a noble failure serves the world as faithfully  
as a distinguished success.  
Edward Dowden (1843-1913)
- 1271 There is something good in all seeming failures. You are  
not to see that now. Time will reveal it. Be patient.  
Sivananda (born 1887)

- 1272 It is often the failure who is the pioneer of new lands,  
new undertakings, and new forms of expression.  
Eric Hoffer (1902-1983) 3 of 5
- 1273 Good people are good because they've come to wisdom through  
failure.  
William Saroyan (1908-1981)

## 5. NEGATIVE

- 1274 There are five things which no one is able to accomplish  
in this world:  
first, to cease growing old when he is growing old;  
second, to cease being sick;  
third, to cease dying;  
fourth, to deny dissolution when there is dissolution;  
fifth, to deny non-being.  
Buddha (B.C. 568-488)
- 1275 The only safety for the conquered is to expect no safety.  
Vergil (B.C. 70-19)
- 1276 Misfortunes one can endure - they come from outside, they  
are accidents. But to suffer for one's own faults - Ah!  
there is the sting of life.  
Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)
- 1277 Man is not made for defeat.  
Ernest Hemingway (1898-1961)
- 1278 Victory has a hundred fathers but defeat is an orphan.  
Galeazzo Ciano (1903-1944)

## 6. ADVICE

- 1279 Help yourself, and Heaven will help you.  
La Fontaine (1621-1695)
- 1280 Defeat should never be a source of discouragement,  
but rather a fresh stimulus.  
Robert South (1634-1716)
- 1281 The surest way not to fail is to determine to succeed.  
Richard Sheridan (1751-1816)
- 1282 Ill-health, of body or of mind, is defeat...Health alone  
is victory. Let all men, if they can manage it, contrive  
to be healthy!  
Carlyle (1795-1881)

- 1283 The greatest mistake you can make in life is to be continually fearing you will make one.  
Elbert Hubbard (1859-1915)
- 1284 Conquer thyself. Till thou hast done this, thou art but a slave; for it is almost as well to be subjected to another's appetite as to thine own.  
Richard E. Burton (1861-1940)
- 1285 Believe and act as if it were impossible to fail.  
Charles Kettering (1876-1958)
- 1286 Do not brood over your past mistakes and failures as this will only fill your mind with grief, regret and depression. Do not repeat them in the future.  
Sivananda (born 1887)

## 7. POTPOURRI

- 1287 Behold prosperity, how sweetly she flattereth thee; how insensibly she robbeth thee of thy strength and thy vigour! Though thou has been constant in ill fortune, though thou has been invincible in distress; yet by her thou art conquered: not knowing that thy strength returneth not again; and yet that thou again mayst need it.  
Akhenaton? (c. B.C. 1375)
- 1288 What though the field be lost?  
All is not lost; the unconquerable will,  
And study of revenge, immortal hate  
And courage never to submit or yield,  
And what else is not to be overcome.  
Milton (1608-1674)
- 1289 There are few people who are more often in the wrong than those who cannot endure to be thought so.  
La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)
- 1290 Not in the clamor of the crowded street,  
Not in the shouts and plaudits of the throng,  
But in ourselves, are triumph and defeat.  
Longfellow (1807-1882)
- 1291 Greatly begin! Though thou have time  
But for a line, be that sublime-  
Not failure, but low aim is crime.  
James Lowell (1819-1891)

1292 We are the doubles of those whose way  
Was festal with fruits and flowers;  
Body and brain we were sound as they,  
But the prizes were not ours.

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Richard E. Burton (1861-1940)