

## Idioms of success and failure

*(This worksheet is designed to supplement Market Leader Upper Intermediate Unit 4 and tie it into Unit 1, but can be used with any Business English class dealing with business idioms of the topic of success)*

Read the idioms below (or listen to your teacher say them) and guess whether each one is about **success** or **failure**:

Get off on the wrong foot	On its knees
Back to square one	In the bag
Blow up in your face	Close, but no cigar
Come to grief	On the crest of a wave
Draw a blank	Fall at the first hurdle
A feather in your cap	Get off to a flying start
Get a foot in the door	By leaps and bounds
Let it slip through my fingers	Make a killing
Miss the boat	Ahead of the pack
The sky's the limit	Throw in the towel
Throw a spanner in the works	Go from strength to strength
Win hands down	Fall flat (on your face)
The final nail in its coffin	A miss is as good as a mile
We were pipped at the post	Losing your edge
Blockbuster	Fall on his sword
From rags to riches	Take off
Plunge	Take a nosedive
Selling like hotcakes	Gone through the roof
Drop out	Ailing
On his way out	Slump
Dive	Soar
Crash	Rocket
Grow	A dip

*Choose one of the famous companies or business people below and try to describe their past, present or usual position with expressions of success or failure like those above until your partner guesses which one you are talking about:*

### **People**

Steve Jobs	Oprah Winfrey
Sir Alan Stanford	Roman Abramovich
Donald Trump	Li Ka-shing
Bill Gates	J.K. Rowling
Rudolf Dassler	Adi Dassler
Kim Woo-choong	Bernie Madoff

### **Companies**

Merck	Roche
Citigroup (Citibank)	GE (General Electric)
Volkswagen	Porsche
AOL Time Warner	Sony
Nintendo	Puma
Adidas	Apple
Microsoft	Airbus
Nokia	Ford
GM	Nike
Reebok	Rover
Lehman Brothers	Arthur Andersen
Enron	TWA
Daewoo Motors	Nissan
Atari	Tesco
Fila	Disney

### **Countries**

Iceland	Ireland
Spain	China