

## Success and failure

- 1** Complete the idioms so that they mean the same as the phrase in *italics*. Use the correct form of any verbs.

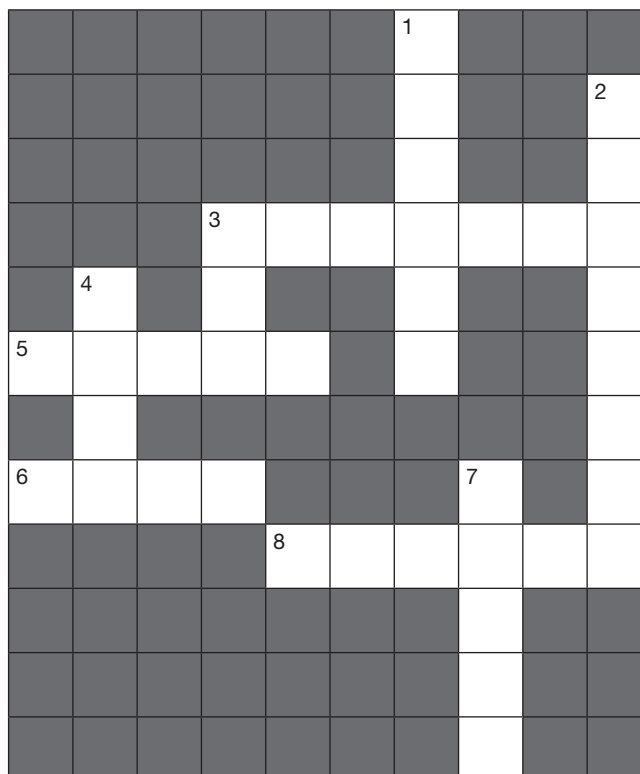
### Across

- 3** It was no surprise that he lost his job.  
*There were clear signs that something bad was going to happen.*  
The ..... *writing* ..... was on the wall.
- 5** She's a brilliant musician – I think she's *likely to become very successful*.  
I think she's ..... **places**.
- 6** About a third of the students I was studying with *failed in what they were doing and stopped trying to succeed*.  
About a third ..... **by the wayside**.
- 8** Olga passed her exams *easily and with great success*.  
She passed her exams **with** ..... **colours**.

### Down

- 1** Another shop on the high street has *failed and stopped existing*.  
Another shop has ..... **the dust**.
- 2** I think we're *trying to achieve something that is unlikely to succeed here*.  
I think we're ..... **a losing battle** here.
- 3** Their team *beat the other side very easily*.  
Their team ..... **hands down**.
- 4** I was worried that we might *fail* in the last round of the competition.  
I was worried we might ..... **unstuck** in the last round of the competition.
- 7** We *defeated them extremely easily*.  
We ..... **the floor with them**.

2 Use the words from exercise 1 to complete the crossword.



3 Do these idioms relate to success (S) or failure (F)?

- 1 There was no longer any market for their product and the company **went belly-up**. ..... *F*
- 2 The men's team **swept the board** in running, swimming, cycling and weight-lifting. ....
- 3 This is a team that will **go the distance**. ....
- 4 So will the Spanish striker **deliver the goods** and score the goal that this team so badly needs? .....

- 5 Williams **brought the house down** on last night's show with an emotional version of the famous song. ....
- 6 Her appointment as leader **strikes a blow** for women's rights in the region. ....

4 Now match these definitions (a–f) with the idioms (1–6) in exercise 2.

- a to win all the prizes or seats in a competition or election .....<sup>2</sup>
- b to do something that supports a cause or principle and makes it more likely to succeed .....
- c to complete what you are doing and achieve your aim .....
- d to achieve what other people expect you to .....
- e to fail .....
- f to perform so well that the audience clap and cheer for a long time .....

## Success and failure – Answer key

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### Exercises 1 & 2

**Across**

- 3 writing
- 5 going
- 6 fell
- 8 flying

**Down**

- 1 bitten
- 2 fighting
- 3 won
- 4 come
- 7 wiped

### Exercise 3

- 1 F
- 2 S
- 3 S
- 4 S
- 5 S
- 6 S

### Exercise 4

- a 2 (sweep the board)
- b 6 (strike a blow)
- c 3 (go the distance)
- d 4 (deliver the goods)
- e 1 (go belly-up)
- f 5 (bring the house down)