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.

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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. ..........  S

3 This is a team that will go the distance. ..........  S

4 So will the Spanish striker deliver the goods and score the goal that this team so badly needs? ..........  F
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 ........

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

Exercises 1 & 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Across</th>
<th>Down</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 writing</td>
<td>1 bitten</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 going</td>
<td>2 fighting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 fell</td>
<td>3 won</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 flying</td>
<td>4 come</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 wiped</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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)