

# BEST QUOTES ON FAILURE

Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could; some blunders and absurdities have crept in; forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day; you shall begin it serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

The man who fails to plan, plans to fail.

—Benjamin Franklin

When a child learns to walk and falls down 50 times, he never thinks to himself: 'Maybe this isn't for me.'

—Unknown

Failure is an event—not a person.

--Zig Ziglar

The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials.

--Chinese Proverb

Mistakes are a part of being human. Appreciate your mistakes for what they are: precious life lessons that can only be learned the hard way. Unless it's a fatal mistake, which, at least, others can learn from.

—Al Franken

To stumble twice against the same stone is a proverbial disgrace.

--Cicero

Failure is the path of least persistence.

—Abraham Lincoln

I avoid doing things, because if I do not do them, I can't be said to fail at them.

--Sylvia Plath

You can never make the same mistake twice because the second time you make it, it's not a mistake, it's a choice.

—Steven Denn

Don't carry your mistakes around with you. Instead, place them under your feet and use them as stepping stones to rise above them.

—Ryan Ferreras

I've had the blessings of good parenting and an education from one of the most prestigious universities in the world. And yet, my most important lessons have come from pain, disappointment, mistakes, heartbreak, and loss. It's when I've been at my worst that I've been served the best.

—Ruben Navarrette

As I look back on my life, I realize that every time I thought I was being rejected from something good, I was actually being re-directed to something better.

—Steve Maraboli

Never be defined by your past. It was a lesson, not a life sentence.

—[facebook.com/Lifebooks](https://www.facebook.com/Lifebooks)

Things could be worse. Suppose your errors were counted and published every day, like those of a baseball player.

—Jill Shalvis

Success is a pile of failure. You're just standing on top of it and not underneath it.

—Dave Ramsey

Would you like me to give you a formula for...success? It's quite simple, really. Double your rate of failure... You're thinking of failure as the enemy of success. But it isn't at all... You can be discouraged by failure--or you can learn from it. So go ahead and make mistakes. Make all you can. Because, remember that's where you'll find success. On the far side.

—Thomas John  
Watson, Sr.

I will not allow my mistakes of the past compromise my hope for the future.

—Charles F. Glassman

If **Plan A** didn't work, don't worry, the alphabet has 25 more letters.

—Heidi McDonald

I've learned so much from my mistakes...I'm thinking of making a few more.

—Ged Backland

Don't cling to a mistake just because you spent a lot of time making it.

—Unknown

Failure should be our teacher, not our undertaker. Failure is delay, not defeat. It is a temporary detour, not a dead end. Failure is something we can avoid only by saying nothing, doing nothing, and being nothing.

—Denis Waitley

The remedy for wrongs is to forget them.

--Publilius Syrus

Look into any man's heart you please, and you will always find, in every one, at least one black spot which he has to keep concealed.

--Henrik Ibsen

Sometimes I lie awake at night, and I ask, 'Where have I gone wrong?' Then a voice says to me, 'This is going to take more than one night.'

--Charles M. Schulz

There is no such thing as failure. Failure is just life trying to move us in another direction. Now, when you're down there in the hole, it looks like failure...Give yourself time to mourn what you think you may have lost, but then here's the key: learn from every mistake because every experience, encounter and particularly your mistakes are there to teach you and force you into being more who you are. And then figure out what is the next right move. And the key to life is to develop an internal moral, emotional GPS that can tell you which way to go.

—Oprah Winfrey

A person who falls and gets back up is much stronger than a person who never fell.

—Ged Backland

It's important to be willing to make mistakes. The worst thing that can happen is you become memorable. I grew up in a house where my father encouraged my brother and me to fail. I specifically remember coming home and saying, Dad, Dad, I tried out for this or that and I was horrible, and he would high-five me and say, Way to go. He reframed my definition of failure from an early age. Failure to me became not trying, instead of the outcome.

--Sara Blakely

Once - many, many years ago - I thought I made a wrong decision. Of course, it turned out that I had been right all along. But I was wrong to have thought that I was wrong.

--John Foster Dulles

The man who never stubs his toe is probably standing still.

--Evan Esar

Success is a public affair. Failure is a private funeral.

--Rosalind Russell

It is not falling into the water, but lying in it, that drowns.

—Unknown

Never confuse a single defeat with a final defeat.

--F. Scott Fitzgerald

No matter how far you have gone on a wrong road, turn back.

--Turkish Proverb

If I find 10,000 ways something won't work, I haven't failed.

--Thomas Edison

Success always occurs in private and failure in full public view.

—Unknown

There is no loneliness greater than the loneliness of failure.

--Eric Hoffer

I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career.

I've lost almost 300 games.

26 times I've been trusted to take the game winning shot—and missed.

I've failed over, and over and over again in my life.

And that is why

I succeed.

--Michael Jordan

Show me someone content with mediocrity, and I'll show you somebody destined for failure.

--Johnetta Cole

The most important of my discoveries have been suggested to me by my failures.  
--Sir Humphrey Davy

Failure: the opportunity to begin again, more intelligently.  
--Henry Ford

Notice the difference between what happens when a man says to himself, 'I have failed three times,' and what happens when he says, 'I am a failure.'  
--S. I. Hayakawa

What is defeat? Nothing but education; nothing but the first step to something better.  
--Wendell Phillips

Architects cover their mistakes with ivy, doctors with sod, and brides with mayonnaise.  
--George Heister

Fear of failure is the father of failure.  
--Unknown

Failure always catches up with those who sit down and wait for success.  
--Unknown

Success isn't necessarily permanent—but neither is failure.  
--Unknown

If you have made mistakes, even serious mistakes, you may have a fresh start any moment you choose, for this thing we call 'failure' is not the falling down, but the staying down.  
--Mary Pickford

No one is a failure who can truly say, 'I have done my best'  
--Unknown

Many of life's failures are men who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.  
—Thomas Edison

It is possible to fail in many ways...while to succeed is possible only in one way (for which reason also one is easy and the other difficult—to miss the mark easy, to hit it difficult).

--Aristotle

A hundred mistakes are a liberal education—if you learn something from each one.

--Roy F. Messier

Fall seven times; stand up eight.

--Japanese Proverb

There is no failure except in no longer trying. There is no defeat except from within, no really insurmountable barrier save our own inherent weakness of purpose.

—Elbert Hubbard

When you make a mistake, there are only three things you should ever do about it: admit it, learn from it, and don't repeat it.

--Paul 'Bear' Bryant

Any man can make mistakes, but only an idiot persists in his error.

--Cicero

Show me a thoroughly satisfied man—and I will show you a failure.

--Thomas A. Edison

To err is human, but when the eraser wears out ahead of the pencil, you're overdoing it.

--Josh Jenkins

Many people fail because they conclude that fundamentals simply do not apply in their case.

--M. L. Cichon

Reality has limits: stupidity has not.

--Napoleon Bonaparte

To do something is in every man's power.

--Samuel Johnson

A weed is a plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

There are two kinds of failures: those who thought and never did, and those who did and never thought.

--Laurence J. Peter

My great concern is not whether you have failed, but whether you are content with your failure.

—Abraham Lincoln

Good people are good because they've come to wisdom through failure. We get very little wisdom from success.

--William Saroyan

I cannot give you the formula for success, but I can give you the formula for failure—which is: Try to please everybody.

--Herbert Bayard Swope

Do not be afraid of defeat. You are never so near to victory as when defeated in a good cause.

--Henry Ward Beecher

There is nothing wrong with making mistakes. Just don't respond with encores.

--William J. Clinton

I have no expectation of making a hit every time I come to bat.

--Franklin D. Roosevelt

Nothing fails like success because we don't learn from it. We learn only from failure.

--Kenneth Boulding

When I was a young man I observed that nine out of ten things I did were failures. I didn't want to be a failure, so I did ten times more work.

--George Bernard Shaw

No man is a failure who is enjoying life.

--William Feather

For of all sad words of tongue or pen,  
The saddest are these: 'It might have been!'

--John Greenleaf Whittier

People don't plan to fail; they fail to plan.

—John L. Beckley

The common idea that success spoils people by making them vain, egotistic, and self-complacent is erroneous; on the contrary, it makes them, for the most part, humble, tolerant, and kind. Failure makes people cruel and bitter.

--William Somerset  
Maugham

Only he who does nothing makes a mistake.

--French Proverb

I sometimes react to making a mistake as if I have betrayed myself. My fear of making a mistake seems to be based on the hidden assumption that I am potentially perfect and that if I can just be very careful I will not fall from heaven. But a 'mistake' is a declaration of the way I *am*, a jolt to the way I intend, a reminder that I am not dealing with the facts. When I have *listened* to my mistakes I have grown.

--Hugh Prather

The sooner you make your first five thousand mistakes, the sooner you will be able to correct them.

--Kimon Nicolaides

Mistakes are worse when you know better.

--Unknown

I never make the same mistake twice. Every day I make new ones.

—Unknown

The thing to try when all else fails is again.

--Shirley Chisholm

Behind every successful man there are usually a lot of unsuccessful years.

--Bob Brown

He who is shipwrecked the second time cannot lay the blame on Neptune.

--English Proverb

A stumble may prevent a fall.

--Thomas Fuller

They who lose today may win tomorrow.

--Cervantes

Doing is overrated, and success undesirable, but the bitterness of Failure even more so.

--Cyril Connolly

My own errors, my looseness, my constant experiment—and failure is the only decent thing about me, man. I would like you to understand that, man.

I would like you to comprehend freely that what is to be got at to make the air sweet, the ground good under the feet, can only be got at by failure, trial, again and again and again failure.

--Sherwood Anderson

Half the failures in life arise from pulling in one's horse as he is leaping.

—Julius Charles and  
A. W. Hare

Perhaps the only real failure is that implying waste—a conscious and flagrant non-use of ability. If one paints barns when he might paint Madonnas, because immediate gain is better than deferred fortune...or if, scorning ideals, one surrenders himself meekly to custom while possessing the ability to create precedents and force issues—these I might call failure.

--Joseph H. Odell

The error of one moment becomes the sorrow of a whole life.

--Chinese Proverb

Error is just as important a condition of life as truth.

--C. G. Jung

The fear of failure is a realistic one because, in general, the chances of failing are much greater than those of succeeding, and because failures in a competitive society entail a realistic frustration of needs. They mean not only economic insecurity, but also loss of prestige and all kinds of emotional frustration.

--Karen Horney

We fail far more often by timidity than by over-daring.

--David Grayson

When you set out to fail, one thing is certain—you can't be disappointed. As the old saying goes, you can't fall out of bed when you sleep on the floor.

--John Holt

Children who depend heavily on adult approval may decide that, if they can't have total success, their next-best bet is to have total failure. Perhaps, in using the giving or withholding of approval as a way of making children do what we want, we are helping to make these deliberate failures.

--John Holt

Persistent failure of one sort and another—job-failure among them—is, we have come to recognize, a not infrequent device for self-punishment.

--Bonaro Overstreet

Dividing people into successes and failures means looking upon human nature from the narrow, preconceived point of view....Are you a failure or not? Am I? Napoleon? Your servant Vasili? Where is the criterion? One must be God to be able to distinguish successes from failures and not make mistakes.

--Anton Chekhov

Failure at a task may be the result of having tackled it at the wrong time. Therefore, wisdom decrees that we try it again at what may prove to be precisely the right moment.

--Brendan Francis

Despair is the price one pays for setting oneself an impossible aim.

--Graham Greene

Every path has its puddle.

--English Proverb

This is a hard and precarious world, where every mistake and infirmity must be paid for in full.

--Clarence Day

The most powerful cause of error is the war existing between the senses and reason.

—Blaise Pascal

The man who can own up to his error is greater than he who merely knows how to avoid making it.

--Cardinal de Retz

A man should never be ashamed to own he has been in the wrong, which is but saying, in other words, that he is wiser today than he was yesterday.

--Jonathan Swift

One unable to dance blames the unevenness of the floor.

--Malay Proverb

One of man's greatest failings is that he looks almost always for an excuse, in the misfortune that befalls him through his own fault, before looking for a remedy—which means he often finds the remedy too late.

--Cardinal de Retz

There is no loneliness greater than the loneliness of a failure.

The failure is a stranger in his own house.

--Eric Hoffer

There is the greatest practical benefit in making a few failures early in life.

--Thomas Henry Huxley

We may stop ourselves when going up, never when coming down.

--Napoleon I

The real fault is to have faults and not to amend them.

--Confucius

Truly it is an evil to be full of faults; but it is a still greater evil to be full of them, and to be unwilling to recognise them.

—Blaise Pascal

There can be no real freedom without the freedom to fail.

--Eric Hoffer

Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or to lose.

--Lyndon B. Johnson

A good garden may have some weeds.

--Thomas Fuller

The best brewer sometimes makes bad beer.

--German Proverb

A good marksman may miss.

--Thomas Fuller

If a man once fall, all will tread upon him.

--Thomas Fuller

Don't be discouraged by a failure. It can be a positive experience. Failure is, in a sense, the highway to success, inasmuch as every discovery of what is false leads us to seek earnestly after what is true, and every fresh experience points to some form of error which we shall afterwards carefully avoid.

--John Keats

The man who makes no mistakes does not usually make anything.

--Edward J. Phelps

No man ever became great or good except through many and great mistakes.

--William E. Gladstone

The only people who make no mistakes are dead people. I saw a man last week who had not made a mistake for four thousand years. He was a mummy in the Egyptian department of the British Museum.

--H. L. Wayland

The best may slip, and the most cautious fall;  
He's more than mortal that ne'er err'd at all.

—John Pomfret

Great errors seldom originate but with men of great minds.

--Petrarch

To have failed is to have striven, to have striven is to have grown.

--Maltbie D. Babcock

Freedom is not worth having if it does not connote freedom to err.

--Mahatma Gandhi

It takes less time to do a thing right than it does to explain why you did it wrong.

—Henry Wadsworth  
Longfellow

Our greatest glory is not in never falling but in rising every time we fall.

--Confucius

We have forty million reasons for failure, but not a single excuse.

--Rudyard Kipling

Some falls are means the happier to rise.

--William Shakespeare

The greatest test of courage on the earth is to bear defeat without losing heart.

—Robert Green Ingersoll

Error is the discipline through which we advance.

--William Ellery  
Channing

It is the nature of every man to err, but only the fool perseveres in error.

--Cicero

To err is human.

--Seneca

There's no defeat, in truth, save from within;  
Unless you're beaten there, you're bound to win!

--Henry Austin

If thou art a man, admire those who attempt great things, even though they fail.

--Seneca

A living failure is better than a dead masterpiece.

—George Bernard Shaw

Mistakes are their own instructors.

--Horace

Failure changes for the better, success for the worse.

--Seneca

A mistake is proof that someone was at least trying to accomplish something.

--Unknown

The physician can bury his mistakes, but the architect can only advise his clients to plant vines.

—Frank Lloyd Wright

What fate can be worse than to know we have no-one but ourselves to blame for our misfortunes!

--Sophocles

Every great mistake has a halfway moment, a split second when it can be recalled and perhaps remedied.

—Pearl Buck

A man must be big enough to admit his mistakes, smart enough to profit from them, and strong enough to correct them.

--John C. Maxwell

A man who has made a mistake and doesn't correct it is committing another mistake.

—Confucius

Haste in every business brings failures.

--Herodotus

To err is human; to blame it on others is even more human.

--Bob Goddard

The only thing in life achieved without effort is failure.

--Unknown

The train of failure usually runs on the track of laziness.

--Unknown

There are a lot of ways to become a failure, but never taking a chance is the most successful.

--Unknown

Failure is not necessarily missing the target, but aiming too low.

--Unknown

Many a man has failed because he has a wishbone where his backbone ought to have been.

--Unknown

There are only two kinds of failures: the man who will do nothing he is told, and the man who will do nothing else.

-- Dr. Perie Thompson

A failure in life is one who lives and fails to learn.

--Unknown

Mistakes aren't so bad. Columbus found America by mistake!

--Unknown

Making mistakes isn't stupid; disregarding them is.

--Unknown

The man who never makes an error never plays ball.

--Unknown

More people would learn from their mistakes if they weren't so busy denying they made them.

--Harold J. Smith

All men make mistakes—husbands just find out about them sooner.

-- Red Skelton

The three most difficult words to speak are, 'I was mistaken.'

--Unknown

Failure is a better teacher than success, but she seldom finds an apple on her desk.

--Unknown

Successful people are very lucky. Just ask any failure.

—Michael Levine

If the truth were known, most successes are built on a multitude of failures.

--Unknown

Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly.

--Robert F. Kennedy

None but the well-bred man knows how to confess a fault, or acknowledge himself in an error.

—Benjamin Franklin

You might as well fall flat on your face as lean over too far backward.

--James Thurber

There is not a fiercer hell than the failure in a great object.

--John Keats

In the lexicon of youth, which fate reserves  
For a bright manhood, there is no such word  
As—*fail*.

--Edward Bulwer-Lytton

Error is a hardy plant: it flourisheth in every soil.

--Martin Farquhar  
Tupper

Most progress is most failure.

--Robert Browning

A minute's success pays the failure of years.

--Robert Browning

Failure is impossible.

--Susan Brownell  
Anthony

Here lies one who meant well, tried a little, failed much:—surely that may be his epitaph of which he need not be ashamed.

--Robert Louis Stevenson

Experience is the name everyone gives to their mistakes.

--Oscar Wilde

You will make all kinds of mistakes; but as long as you are generous and true, and also fierce, you cannot hurt the world or even seriously distress her.

--Sir Winston Churchill

To err is human, to forgive divine.

--Alexander Pope

If we learn from losing, we become winners in the end.

--Unknown

To make no mistakes is not in the power of man; but from their errors and mistakes the wise and good learn wisdom for the future.

--Plutarch

If we had no failings ourselves we should not take so much pleasure in finding out those of others.

—Francois de La  
Rochefoucauld

Such is the force of envy and ill-nature, that the failings of good men are more published to the world than their good deeds; and one fault of a well-deserving man shall meet with more reproaches than all his virtues will with praise.

--Nathaniel Parker  
Willis

He only is exempt from failures who makes no efforts.

—Richard Whately

No man ever became great or good except through many and great mistakes.

--William E. Gladstone

There is only one real failure in life that is possible, and that is, not to be true to the best one knows.

—Frederic William  
Farrar

They fail, and they alone, who have not striven.

—Thomas Bailey Aldrich

To try when there is little hope is to risk failure. Not to try at all is to guarantee it.

--Unknown

The man who gives up goes down.

--B. C. Forbes

Mistakes are easy, mistakes are inevitable, but there is no mistake so great as the mistake of not going on.

--William Blake

Mistakes are costly and somebody must pay. The time to correct a mistake is before it is made. The causes of mistakes are first, 'I didn't know,' second, 'I didn't think,' third, 'I didn't care.'

--Henry H. Buckley

There is no defeat except from within. There is really no insurmountable barrier save your own inherent weakness of purpose.

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

Mishaps are like knives that either serve us or cut us as we grasp them by the blade or handle. After all, a smooth sea never made a successful sailor.

--Herman Melville

It is only one step beyond failure that growth exists.

--Lloyd Richards

Errors should be reasons for growth, not excuses for discouragement.

--Unknown

Forget entirely the word 'disappointment.' Failures, so called, are but finger posts pointing out the right direction to those who are willing to learn.

--Thomas Edison

Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off the goal.

--Hanna More

I have no use for men who fail. The cause of their failure is no business of mine, but I want successful men as my associates.

--John D. Rockefeller

It is hard to fail, but it is worse never to have tried to succeed.

--Theodore Roosevelt

A man can fail many times, but he isn't a failure until he begins to blame somebody else.

--John Burroughs

Failures are divided into two classes—those who thought and never did, and those who did and never thought.

--John Charles Salak

Ninety-nine percent of failures come from people who have the habit of making excuses.

--George Washington  
Carver

He's no failure. He's not dead yet.

--William Lloyd George

Not failure, but low aim, is crime.

--James Russell Lowell

A man's life is interesting primarily when he has failed—I well know. For it's a sign that he tried to surpass himself.

--Georges Clemenceau

Disappointment to a noble soul is what cold water is to burning metal; it strengthens, tempers, intensifies, but never destroys it.

--Eliza Tabor

There are some defeats more triumphant than victories.

--Michel de Montaigne

It is defeat that turns bone to flint; it is defeat that turns gristle to muscle; it is defeat that makes men invincible.

--Henry Ward Beecher

Besides the practical knowledge which defeat offers, there are important personality profits to be taken. Defeat strips away false values and makes you realize what you really want. It stops you from chasing butterflies and puts you to work digging gold.

--William Moulton  
Marston

In great attempts it is glorious even to fail.

--Cassius

Strength is born in the deep silence of long-suffering hearts; not amid joy.

--Felicia Hemans

Mistakes are, after all, the foundations of truth, and if a man does not know what a thing is, it is at least an increase in knowledge if he knows what it is not.

--Carl Gustav Jung

The dark, uneasy world of family life—where the greatest can fail and the humblest succeed.

--Randall Jarrell

I will not allow yesterday's success to lull me into today's complacency, for this is the great foundation of failure.

—Og Mandino

I have learned to take 'no' as a vitamin.

--Suzanne de Passe

I've always believed no matter how many shots I miss, I'm going to make the next one.

--Isaiah Thomas

It often happens that an unsuccessful experiment may produce an excellent observation. There are, therefore, no unsuccessful experiments.

--Claude Bernard

Our failures are like stones—they are either stepping stones or mill stones.

--David Cowan

I never had any failures...just learning experiences.

--Thomas Edison

'I tried, but it didn't work' is a lot better than 'I wish I'd tried.'

--Unknown

Everybody makes a very bad mistake at least once a week.

--Unknown

People will listen a great deal more patiently while you explain your mistakes than when you explain your successes.

--William N. Nesbitt

The fellow who never makes a mistake takes his orders from one who does.

--Herbert V. Prochnow

Occasional failure is the price of improvement.

--Unknown

The better a man is, the more mistakes he will make, for the more new things he will try....I would never promote into a top-level job a man who was not making mistakes...otherwise he is sure to be mediocre.

--Peter Drucker

You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try.

--Beverly Sills

To learn, fail...If nothing ever breaks, you don't really know how strong it is. Strike out fear of failure....Reward success and failure equally—punish inactivity.

--David Kelley

Don't let failure go to your head.

--Haim Ginott

The price of success is perseverance. The price of failure comes cheaper.

--Unknown

Failure is success if we learn from it.

--Malcolm S. Forbes

The greatest mistake a person can make is to be afraid of making one.

--Elbert Hubbard

Good intentions are no substitute for action; failure usually follows the path of least persistence.

--Unknown

Failure is not the worst thing in the world. The very worst is not to try.

--Unknown

Make the mistakes of yesterday your lessons for today.

--Unknown

Don't ever be afraid to admit you were wrong. It's like saying you're wiser today than you were yesterday.

--Robert Newell

When you cry, it's easier if your tears fall on Persian carpets.

--Ed Wynn

The person who never makes a mistake probably isn't *doing* anything.

--Unknown

You must learn from the mistakes of others. You can't possibly live long enough to make them all yourself.

--Sam Levinson

We learn wisdom from failure much more than from success. We often discover what *will* do, by finding out what will not do; and probably he who never made a mistake never made a discovery.

--Samuel Smiles

The only people who never fail are those who never try.

--Ilka Chase

An error doesn't become a mistake until you refuse to correct it.

--Orlando A. Battista

A man of genius makes no mistakes. His errors are the portals of discovery.

--James Joyce

Failure is not a single, cataclysmic event. You don't fail overnight. Instead, failure is a few errors in judgment, repeated every day.

--Jim Rohn

There can be no freedom without freedom to fail.

--Eric Hoffer

No man is demolished but by himself.

--Thomas Bentley

All men that are ruined are ruined on the side of their natural propensities.  
--Edmund Burke

The progress of rivers to the ocean is not so rapid as that of man to error.  
--Voltaire

A clever man commits no minor blunders.  
—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

The men who try to do something and fail are infinitely better than those who try to do nothing and succeed.  
--Lloyd Jones

We lost because we told ourselves we lost.  
--Leo Tolstoy

Mistakes are the foundation of achievement.  
—Steven Magee

Only he who does nothing makes a mistake.  
--French Proverb

A mistake is evidence that somebody has tried to accomplish something.  
--John E. Babcock

A life spent in making mistakes is not only more honorable but more useful than a life spent in doing nothing.  
--George Bernard Shaw

The highest tree hath the greatest fall.  
—Latin Proverb

Any man may make a mistake; none but a fool will persist in it.  
--Cicero

Nature gave men two ends—one to sit on and one to think with. Ever since then man's success or failure has been dependent on the one he used most.  
--George R. Kirkpatrick

Thomas Edison invented the electric light bulb, but as a small child, age 7, his teacher said he was too stupid learn.

—[PlanetMotivation.com](http://PlanetMotivation.com)

In 1962, four nervous young musicians played their first record audition for the executives of the Decca Recording company. The executives were not impressed. While turning down this group of musicians, one executive said, 'We don't like their sound. Groups of guitars are on the way out.'

The group was The Beatles.

In 1944, Emmeline Snively, director of the Blue Book Modeling Agency, told modeling hopeful Norma Jean Baker, 'You'd better learn secretarial work or else get married.'

She went on and became known as Marilyn Monroe.

In 1954, Jimmy Denny, manager of the Grand Ole Opry fired a singer after one performance. He told him, 'You ain't goin' nowhere son. You ought to go back to drivin' a truck.'

That singer went on to become the most popular singer in America, Elvis Presley.

When Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone in 1876, it did not ring off the hook with calls from potential backers. After making a demonstration call, President Rutherford Hayes said, 'That's an amazing invention, but who would ever want to use one of them?'

When Thomas Edison invented the light bulb, he tried over 2000 experiments before he got it to work. A young reporter asked him how it felt to fail so many times. He said, 'I never failed once. I invented the light bulb. It just happened to be a 2000-step process.'

In the 1940's, another young inventor named Chester Carlson took his idea to 20 corporations, including some of the biggest in the country. They all turned him down. In 1947, after seven long years of rejections, he finally got a tiny company in Rochester, New York, the Haloid Corporation, to purchase the rights to his invention, an electrostatic paper-copying process. Haloid became the Xerox Corporation we know today.

Wilma Rudolph was the 20th of 22 children. She was born prematurely and her chances for survival were slim. When she was 4, she contracted double pneumonia and scarlet fever, leaving her with a paralyzed left leg. At age 9, she removed the metal leg brace she had been dependent on and began to walk without it. By 13 she had developed rhythmic walk, which doctors said was a miracle. That same year she decided to become a runner. She entered a race and finished last. For the next few years every race she entered, she finished last. Everyone told her to quit, but she kept running. Then she actually won a race. And then another. From then on she won every race she entered. Eventually this little girl, who was told she would never walk again, went on to win three Olympic gold medals.

The Moral of the Stories: character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experiences of trial, suffering, and error can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired, and success achieved. You gain strength, experience, and confidence by those experiences where you really stop to face your fears. You must do the thing you cannot do. And remember, the finest steel gets sent through the hottest furnace. A winner is not one who never fails, but one who never quits.

Remember, you pass this way only once. Live your life to the fullest and give it your best.

—Phil Barton

To err is human  
And stupid.

--Robert Byrne

The man who does things makes many mistakes, but he never makes the biggest mistake of all—doing nothing.

--Benjamin Franklin

Anyone seen on a bus after the age of thirty has been a failure in life.

--Loelia, Duchess of  
Westminster

The child who is the least creative is the child who is most fearful of failure.

--Greg Henry Quinn

A turn in the road is not the end of the road unless you fail to make the turn.

--Helen Keller

Recovering from failure is often easier than building from success.

--Michael Eisner

Failure is delay but not defeat.

It is a temporary detour, not a dead-end street.

--William Arthur Ward

An inventor fails 999 times, and if he succeeds once, he's in. He treats his failures simply as practice shots.

—Charles Kettering

Learning starts with failure; the first failure is the beginning of education.

--John Hersey

The minute you start talking about what you're going to do if you lose, you have lost.

--George Schultz

I never have frustrations.

The reason is to wit:

If at first I don't succeed,

I quit!

--Unknown

Being defeated is often a temporary condition. Giving up is what makes it permanent.

--Marlene vos Savant

Failures are like skinned knees—painful but superficial.

--H. Ross Perot

The common idea that success spoils people by making them vain, egotistic, and self-complacent is erroneous; on the contrary, it makes them, for the most part, humble, tolerant, and kind. Failure makes people cruel and bitter. Success improves the character of the man.

--W. Somerset Maugham

A successful man cannot realize how hard an unsuccessful man finds life.  
--Edgar Watson Howe

I'd rather be a failure at something I enjoy than be a success at something I hate.  
--George Burns

Very few of the great leaders ever get through their careers without failing  
sometimes dramatically.  
--Philip Crosby

The world breaks everyone, and afterward many are stronger at the broken places.  
--Ernest Hemingway

Many people dream of success. To me success can only be achieved through  
repeated failure and introspection. In fact, success represents one percent of  
your work which results from the 99 percent that is called failure.  
--Soichiro Honda

Teach a highly educated person that it is not a disgrace to fail and that he must  
analyze every failure to find its cause. He must learn how to fail intelligently,  
for failing is one of the greatest arts in the world.  
--Charles F. Kettering

The freedom to fail is vital if you're going to succeed. Most successful people fail  
time and time again, and it is a measure of their strength that failure merely  
propels them into some new attempt at success.  
--Michael Korda

Delay is preferable to error.  
--Thomas Jefferson

The greatest mistake you can make in life is to be continually fearing you will make  
one.  
--Elbert Hubbard

Mistakes are a part of life; you can't avoid them. All you can hope is that they won't  
be too expensive and that you don't make the same mistake twice.  
--Lee Iacocca

Winners are losers who got up and gave it one more try.  
—Dennis DeYoung

Give me the fruitful error any time, full of seeds, bursting with its own corrections.  
You can keep your sterile truth for yourself.

--Vilfredo Pareto

Lack of will power has caused more failure than lack of intelligence or ability.

--Flower A. Newhouse

The sages do not consider that making no mistakes is a blessing. They believe, rather, that the great virtue of man lies in his ability to correct his mistakes and continually to make a new man of himself.

--Wang Yang-Ming

Any man worth his salt will stick up for what he believes right, but it takes a slightly bigger man to acknowledge instantly and without reservation that he is in error.

--General Peyton C.  
March

And behind every man who is a failure there's a woman, too!

--John Ruge

A failure is a man who has blundered, but is not able to cash in on the experience.

--Elbert Hubbard

Don't despise the advice of the man who failed; he should be an authority on what not to do.

--Evan Esar

Girls tend to attribute their failures to factors such as lack of ability, while boys tend to attribute failure to specific factors, including teachers' attitudes. Moreover, girls avoid situations in which failure is likely, whereas boys approach such situations as a challenge, indicating that failure differentially affects self-esteem.

--Michael Lewis

The man who has never made a mistake will never make anything else.

—George Bernard Shaw

Don't hesitate to go out on a limb sometimes—after all, that's where the fruit is.

--Will Rogers

Success comes in cans; failure in can'ts.

--Unknown

The mistakes of the fool are known to the world but not to himself; the mistakes of the wise man are known to himself but not to the world.

--Charles Caleb Colton

Intelligent people make many mistakes because they cannot believe that the world is really as foolish as it is.

—Nicolas Chamfort

The failure is to be 40 and not to have tried.

--Beatrice Colen

Babe Ruth struck out 1330 times in his amazing major league baseball career. Tell him all about your fear of rejection.

--Unknown

If your life is free of failures, you're not taking enough risks.

--H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former.

--Albert Einstein

It is not impossibilities which fill us with the deepest despair, but possibilities which we have failed to realize.

--Robert Mallet

When your dreams turn to dust, vacuum.

--Desmond Tutu

Let the child...be taught that every mistake, every fault, every difficulty, conquered, becomes a steppingstone to better and higher things.

--Ellen G. White

There are no hopeless situations. There are only men who have grown hopeless about them.

--Al Schindler

He that is good at making excuses is seldom good at anything else.

-- Benjamin Franklin

The way to be nothing is to do nothing.

-- Nathaniel Howe

Even monkeys fall out of trees.

-- Japanese proverb

Our mistakes and failures are always the first to strike us and outweigh in our imagination what we have accomplished and attained.

—Johann Wolfgang von  
Goethe

Stumbling is not falling.

--Portuguese Proverb

You've always got to be aware of why you don't win, otherwise you'll keep losing. Every mistake is a learning experience and, hopefully, you won't make the same mistake again.

--Layne Beachley

Those who blame others for their failures have succeeded in failing.

--Robert Half

I honestly think it is better to be a failure at something you love than to be a success at something you hate.

--George Burns

Winning is habit. Unfortunately, so is losing.

--Vince Lombardi

If you're not failing every now and again, it's a sign you're not doing anything very innovative.

--Woody Allen

If at first you don't succeed, failure may be your style.

--Quentin Crisp

When you make an error, don't dwell on it and don't excuse it; value the correction.

--Connie Eddieman

Three failures denote uncommon strength. A weakling has not enough grit to fail thrice.

--Minna Thomas Antrim

Success has a thousand fathers but failure is an orphan.

-Ancient Chinese Proverb

Keep out of the suction caused by those who drift backward.

--E. K. Piper

An expert is a person who has made all the mistakes that can be made in a very narrow field.

--Niels Bohr

It's OK to make a mistake when you've tried. It's a mistake not to try.

--Unknown

The only nice thing about being imperfect is the joy it brings to others.

--Doug Larson

To err is human; to admit it, superhuman.

--Doug Larson

Flops are part of life's menu, and I'm never a girl to miss out on a course.

--Rosalind Russell

Many men fail because they quit too soon. They lose faith when the signs are against them. They do not have the courage to hold on, to keep fighting in spite of that which seems insurmountable. If more of us would strike out and attempt the 'impossible,' we very soon would find the truth of that old saw that nothing is impossible....Abolish fear and you can accomplish anything you wish.

--Dr. C.E. Welch

Sometimes I even look forward to the next failure. Your true test comes when you hit bottom.

--Bud Hadfield

Look upon the errors of others in sorrow, not anger.

--Henry Wadsworth  
Longfellow

It's always helpful to learn from your mistakes because then your mistakes seem worthwhile.

--Garry Marshall

The only time you mustn't fail is the last time you try.

--Charles Kettering

Reward Success and Failure; Punish Inaction

--Robert Sutton

While one person hesitates because he feels inferior, the other is busy making mistakes and becoming superior.

--Henry C. Link

If you don't make mistakes, you're not working on hard enough problems. And that's a big mistake.

--Frank Wilczek

Storms make oaks take deeper root.

--George Herbert

It is how people respond to stress that determines whether they will profit from misfortune or be miserable.

--Mihaly  
Csikszentmihalyi

Take chances, make mistakes. That's how you grow. Pain nourishes your courage. You have to fail in order to practice being brave.

--Mary Tyler Moore

If you worry about yesterday's failures, then today's successes will be few.

--Unknown

There are two cardinal sins from which all others spring: Impatience and Laziness.

--Franz Kafka

The only thing that overcomes hard luck is hard work.

--Harry Golden

If you want to know whether you are destined to be a success or a failure in life, you can easily find out. The test is simple and it is infallible. Are you able to save money? If not, drop out. You will lose.

--James J. Hill

In the game of life, it's a good idea to have a few early losses, which relieves you of the pressure of trying to maintain an undefeated season.

--Bill Vaughan

Obscurity is a good thing. You can fail in obscurity. It removes the fear of failure.

--Jason Fried

Error is discipline through which we advance.

--William Ellery  
Channing

I've never been sure of the distinction between a glitch and a snafu; I think a glitch is much smaller and resembles a Dr. Seuss character.

--John Beaudouin

Assert your right to make a few mistakes. If people can't accept your imperfections, that's their fault.

--David M. Burns

Forget mistakes. Forget failure. Forget everything except what you're going to do now and do it.

--Will Durant

After all these years, I am still involved in the process of self-discovery. It's better to explore life and make mistakes than to play it safe. Mistakes are part of the dues one pays for a full life.

--Sophia Loren

For years she [Cyndi Lauper] sang for cover bands but was routinely fired....'I was told I moved too much on the stage,' Lauper remembers. 'Why couldn't I just stand still and sing?' The rejection not only increased her resolve; it also sparked a lifelong belief that early stumbles can lead to later success. 'Who knows what I would be doing if I had been successful in cover bands?' she asks, arching one brow.

—Judith Newman

Frame every so-called disaster with these words: 'In five years, will this matter?'  
--Unknown

The minute you start to believe you can't fail you already have.  
--Jeff Ward

Life is not about learning to deal with success. That's easy. It's about learning to move past disappointments and failures, to move on, to make the best. I won't say everything works out for the best. It doesn't, not always. Sometimes what is, is.  
--Susan Estrich

It's good to lose once in a while. It makes you examine your weaknesses and try to improve. It keeps you hungry.  
--Ramona Shelburne

Failure is when your best isn't good enough, and I'm trying as hard as I possibly can.  
--Marlen Esparza

Success comes and goes. Your flops stay with you for life.  
--Nora Ephron

We all make mistakes. The key is to recognize them and admit them, to learn from them, and to take off the rear-view mirrors—drive on and avoid making them again.  
--General David Patraeus

Adventure is just bad planning.  
--Roald Amundsen

If at first you don't succeed, try again. Then quit. There's no use being a damn fool about it.  
—W. C. Fields

Always acknowledge a fault. This will throw those in authority off their guard and give you an opportunity to commit more.  
--Mark Twain

Forget mistakes, forget failures, forget everything, except what you're going to do now and do it. Today is your lucky day.  
--Will Durant

We are all failures—at least the best of us.

—J. M. Barrie

If I had my life to live again, I'd make the same mistakes, only sooner.

--Tallulah Bankhead

A willingness to court failure can be a precursor to growth. Successful people are not the ones who cultivate a veneer of perfection, but rather those who understand that failing is part of getting smarter and better.

--Carol Dweck

When you fail, the important think is to do it while daring greatly.

--Teddy Roosevelt

We need to allow our children to fail, because struggle builds resilience and grit.

--Liza Mundy

Overcoming failure—bankruptcy, addiction, dissolution, defeat—is part of the quintessential American success story.

--Robert Dallek

Other people's failures, served up with the right ratio of struggle to eventual redemption, are interesting to watch. Failure and recovery make for a grand narrative, transforming an ordinary person or politician into something more like a literary character. Like odysseys and coming-of-age stories and parables of exile, failure gives a life or a career a pleasing dramatic arc. Bill Clinton's failures and flaws, along with his political genius, are part of what make him one of the most compelling public figures of our time.

--Liza Mundy

Success is supposed to come after failure, not before. When the reverse happens—when spectacular success is followed by failure or even just fumbling—the central character seems diminished rather than enlarged, optimism feels harder to come by, and the story just doesn't have that stirring sense of downfall and digging-out that we seem, irresistibly, to want.

--Liza Mundy

I don't care about risk, honestly. The riskiest thing to do is to not act. I would far rather try and fail than fail not trying.

-- John Kerry

I made decisions that I regret, and I took them as learning experiences... I'm human, not perfect, like anybody else.

--Queen Latifah

Impossible is a word only to be found in the dictionary of fools.

--Napoleon

Problems are only opportunities with thorns on them.

--Hugh Miller

Regrets and recriminations only hurt your soul.

--Armand Hammer

Mistakes are always forgivable, if one has the courage to admit them.

--Bruce Lee

Enjoy failure and learn from it. You can never learn from success.

--James Dyson

I'd like to just be a little bit more open to making mistakes and not worrying about it so much.

--Joan Jett

He who has never failed somewhere, that man can not be great.

--Herman Melville

The season of failure is the best time for sowing the seeds of success.

--Paramahansa  
Yogananda

A mediocre failure is an insufferable as a mediocre success. Embrace failure! Seek it out. Learn to love it. That may be the only way any of us will ever be free.

--Tom Robbins

What region of the earth is not full of our calamities?

--Virgil

Success and failure are both difficult to endure. Along with success come drugs, divorce, fornication, bullying, travel, meditation, medication, depression, neurosis and suicide. With failure comes failure.

--Joseph Heller

It's hard to say who gets criticized the most, the successful person, or the failure, but it's mighty close.

--Joe Moore

Defeat doesn't finish a man, quit does. A man is not finished when he's defeated. He's finished when he quits.

--Richard M. Nixon

Struggling with something, failing has a great effect—a gap opens, you realize you don't know everything—a little emptiness forms where you can receive something. Particularly in our Western ambitious, productive, drill, workout society it is hard to hear what's at our backs; we only pay attention to what's in front, advancing, a goal. Not succeeding brings us to the ground, to look outside our shell, to even use the small word we are afraid to use: help.

--Natalie Goldberg

If there exists no possibility of failure, then victory is meaningless.

--Robert H. Schuller

We're kind of defined by our mistakes.

--Tommy Shaw

Failures to heroic minds are the stepping stones to success.

--Thomas Chandler  
Haliburton

Use missteps as stepping stones to deeper understanding and greater achievement.

--Susan L. Taylor

It's just as sure a recipe for failure to have the right idea fifty years too soon as five years too late.

--J. R. Platt

Apparent failure may hold in its rough shell the germs of a success that will bloom in time, and bear fruit throughout eternity.

--Frances Watkins  
Harper

To err is human, to blame the next guy even more so.

--Unknown

How you think when you lose determines how long it will be until you win.  
--Gilbert K. Chesterton

Once you learn to quit, it becomes a habit.  
—Vince Lombardi

To succeed you must first improve, to improve you must first practice, to practice you must first learn, and to learn you must first fail.  
—Wesley Woo

To swear off making mistakes is very easy. All you have to do is to swear off having ideas.  
—Leo Burnett

A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing.  
— George Bernard Shaw

Few things are impracticable in themselves; and it is for want of application, rather than of means, that men fail to succeed.  
—Francois de La  
Rochefoucauld

No one ever gets too big to make mistakes. The secret is that the big man is greater than his mistakes, because he rises right out of them and passes beyond them.  
—George Matthew  
Adams

Not many people are willing to give failure a second opportunity. They fail once and it is all over. The bitter pill of failure is often more than most people can handle. If you are willing to accept failure and learn from it, if you are willing to consider failure as a blessing in disguise and bounce back, you have got the essential of harnessing one of the most powerful success forces.  
—Joseph Sugarman

Forget past mistakes. Forget failures. Forget about everything except what you're going to do now - and do it.  
—William Durant

The harder you fall, the higher you bounce.

—Doug Horton

In moments of discouragement, defeat, or even despair, there are always certain things to cling to. Little things usually: remembered laughter, the face of a sleeping child, a tree in the wind—in fact, any reminder of something deeply felt or dearly loved. No man is so poor as not to have many of these small candles. When they are lighted, darkness goes away—and a touch of wonder remains.

—*Tombstone Inscription  
in Britain*

The essence of a man is found in his faults.

—Francis Picabia

You can learn little from victory. You can learn everything from defeat.

—Christy Mathewson

All the adversity I've had in my life, all my troubles and obstacles, have strengthened me... You may not realize it when it happens, but a kick in the teeth may be the best thing in the world for you.

—Walt Disney

A failure establishes only this, that our determination to succeed was not strong enough.

—Christian Nestell  
Bovee

There is much to be said for failure. It is much more interesting than success.

—Max Beerbohm

Winning may not be everything, but losing has little to recommend it.

—Dianne Feinstein

Success is not final. Failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts.

—Winston Churchill

Getting fired is nature's way to telling you that you had the wrong job in the first place.

--Hal Lancaster

Any life when viewed from the inside is simply a series of defeats.

—George Orwell

He that never changes his opinions, never corrects his mistakes, will never be wiser on the morrow than he is today.

--Tryon Edwards

You want to know the difference between a master and a beginner? The master has failed more time than the beginner has even tried.

—Stephen McCranie

A man endures misfortune without complaint.

—Franz Schubert

Fail, and your friends feel superior. Succeed, and they feel resentful.

—Mason Cooley

Failure doesn't kill you... it increases your desire to make something happen.

—Kevin Costner

Growth begins when we start to accept our own weakness.

—Jean Vanier

The person interested in success has to learn to view failure as a healthy, inevitable part of the process of getting to the top.

—Joyce Brothers

You build on failure. You use it as a stepping stone. Close the door on the past. You don't try to forget the mistakes, but you don't dwell on it. You don't let it have any of your energy, or any of your time, or any of your space.

—Johnny Cash

Failure is an option here. If things are not failing, you are not innovating enough.

—Elon Musk

A man may fall many times, but he won't be a failure until he says that someone pushed him.

—Elmer G. Letterman

Pain makes you stronger. Fear makes you braver. Failure makes you better.

—Unknown

When we hide our failings from others, we seek to hide them from ourselves, and it is in the latter attempt that we are most successful.

—Pierre Nicole

You will do foolish things, but do them with enthusiasm.

—Colette

If you have made mistakes, even serious ones, there is always another chance for you. What we call failure is not the falling down but the staying down.

—Mary Pickford

A ratio of failures is built into the process of writing. The wastebasket has evolved for a reason.

—Margaret Atwood

When you make a mistake, don't look back at it long. Take the reason of the thing into your mind and then look forward. Mistakes are lessons of wisdom. The past cannot be changed. The future is yet in your power.

—Hugh White

Every no gets you closer to yes.

—Joe Girard

A person who doubts himself is like a man who would enlist in the ranks of his enemies and bear arms against himself. He makes his failure certain by himself being the first person to be convinced of it.

—Alexandre Dumas

In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.

—Albert Einstein

If I knock you off a chair, that's on me. If you're still on the ground a week later, that's on you.

—Jeffrey Goldberg

When you go to meetings or auditions and you fail to prepare, prepare to fail. It is simple but true.

—Paula Abdul

No man is a failure who enjoys life.

—William Feather

You drown not by falling into a river, but by staying submerged in it.

—Paulo Coelho

A well-adjusted person is one who makes the same mistake twice without getting nervous.

—Alexander Hamilton

For an adult, eating alone at McDonald's is admitting a kind of defeat.

—Jonathan Carroll

If you're not prepared to make a mistake, you're not going to make much progress.

—Maurice Wilkins

Just because you are struggling does not mean you are failing. Everything worthwhile requires some kind of struggle to get there.

—Unknown

My entire life can be summed up in one sentence... 'Well, that didn't go as planned.'

—Rachel Wolchin

I never lose. Either I win or I learn.

—Nelson Mandela

The man with insight enough to admit his limitations comes nearest to perfection.

—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

More men fail through lack of purpose than lack of talent.

—Billy Sunday

He who has never failed somewhere, that man can not be great.

—Herman Melville

The only way to fail at life is to abstain.

—Johanna de Silentio

3 ways to fail at everything in life:

1. Complain about everything
2. Blame others for your problems
3. Never be grateful

—Anthony Gucciardi

When you've done something wrong, admit it and be sorry. No one in history has ever choked to death from swallowing his pride.

—*RawForBeauty.com*

The reality is, sometimes you lose. And you're never too good to lose, you're never too big to lose, you're never too smart to lose, it happens. And it happens when it needs to happen. And you have to embrace those things.

—Beyoncé

Reflect upon your present blessings of which every man has many—not on your past misfortunes, of which all men have some.

—Charles Dickens

No matter how many mistakes you make or how slow you progress, you are still way ahead of everyone who isn't trying.

—Tony Robbins

I constantly experience failure in that my work is never as good as I want it to be. So I live with failure.

—Jeremy Irons

Never be afraid to fail. Every time you get up in the morning, you are ahead.

—Richard Brooks

You always pass failure on your way to success.

—Mickey Rooney

I never thought of losing, but now that it's happened, the only thing is to do it right. That's my obligation to all the people who believe in me. We all have to take defeats in life.

—Muhammad Ali

Experience enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

—Franklin P. Jones

One may go wrong in many different ways, but right only in one, which is why it is easy to fail and difficult to succeed—easy to miss the target and difficult to hit it.

—Aristotle

You cannot measure a man by his failures. You must know what use he makes of them. What did they mean to him? What did he get out of them?

—Orison Swett Marden

America offers opportunity, not guarantees. You lose your job, you get another one or start your own business. You suffer a setback, you pick yourself up and press ahead. You don't wallow in self-pity, and you never give up. That's not always the easy way. But it's something better, more lasting and more satisfying. It's called the American way.

—Ruben Navarrette

One of my fellow firearms instructors once said to me when I was dwelling on a misplaced shot 'you need to learn to FAIL FAST', as in accept your failure and get over it. Applies to so much more than shooting.

—*theChive*

The prevalence of hidden practice among successful people is costly to society because it obscures the amount of failure that goes into success.

—Jerry Useem

The only way you know what works is to fail.

—Warren Buffett

I've told them [his children] that unless they had failures, they *were* failures.

—Warren Buffett

Danger is a good teacher, and makes apt scholars. So are disgrace, defeat, exposure to immediate scorn and laughter. There is no opportunity in such cases for self-delusion, no idling time away, no being off your guard (or you must take the consequences)—neither is there any room for humor or caprice or prejudice. If the Indian Juggler were to play tricks in throwing up the three case-knives, he would cut off his fingers. I can make a very bad antithesis without cutting off my fingers. The tact of style is more ambiguous than that of double-edged instruments.

—William Hazlitt

Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal.  
—Henry Ford

Your past mistakes are meant to guide you not define you.  
—Internet Meme

Despite what you may believe, you can disappoint people and still be good enough. You can make mistakes and still be capable and talented. You can let people down and still be worthwhile and deserving of love. Everyone has disappointed someone they care about. Everyone messes up, lets people down, and makes mistakes. Not because we're inadequate or fundamentally inept, but because we're imperfect and fundamentally human. Expecting anything different is setting yourself up for failure.

—Daniell Koepke

May God in his mercy enable us without obstinacy to perceive our errors.  
—Michael Servetus

Keep in mind that neither success nor failure is ever final.  
—Roger Babson

There are no hopeless situations; there are only men who have grown hopeless about them.  
—Clare Boothe Luce

In all education the main cause of failure is staleness.  
—Alfred North  
Whitehead

F.A.I.L. = First Attempt In Learning.  
—Unknown

A mistake should be your teacher, not your attacker. A mistake is a lesson, not a loss. It is a temporary, necessary detour, not a dead end.  
—Unknown

You don't inspire others by being perfect. You inspire them by how you deal with your imperfections.  
—Ged Backland

Your best teacher is your last mistake.

—Ralph Nader

One of the secrets of life is to make stepping stones out of stumbling blocks.

—Jack Penn

Confession of errors is like a broom which sweeps away the dirt and leaves the surface brighter and clearer. I feel stronger for confession.

—Mohandas Gandhi

Nothing is really over until the moment you stop trying.

—Brian Dyson

You can't have any successes unless you can accept failure.

—George Cukor

Some failure in life is inevitable. It is impossible to live without failing at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all—in which case, you fail by default.

— J. K. Rowling

Failure is the condiment that gives success its flavor.

—Truman Capote

To err is human; to refrain from laughing, humane.

—Lane Olinghouse

Even the great writers of our time have tried and failed and failed some more. Vladimir Nabokov received a harsh rejection letter from Knopf upon submitting *Lolita*, which would later go on to sell fifty million copies. Sylvia Plath's first rejection letter for *The Bell Jar* read, 'There certainly isn't enough genuine talent for us to take notice.' Gertrude Stein received a cruel rejection letter that mocked her style. Marcel Proust's *Swann's Way* earned him a sprawling rejection letter regarding the reasons he should simply give up writing all together. Tim Burton's first illustrated book, *The Giant Zlig*, got the thumbs down from Walt Disney Productions, and even Jack Kerouac's perennial *On the Road* received a particularly blunt rejection letter that simply read, 'I don't dig this one at all.' So even if you're an utterly fantastic writer who will be remembered for decades forthcoming, you'll still most likely receive a large dollop of criticism, rejection, and perhaps even mockery before you get there.

—Cody Delistraty

I haven't failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work.

—Thomas Edison

Forgive yourself first. Release the need to replay a negative situation over and over again in your mind. Don't become a hostage to your past by always reviewing and reliving your mistakes. Don't remind yourself of what should have, could have or would have been. Release it and let it go. Move on.

—Les Brown

No effort is ever wasted, although some pay dividends later than you think. Do not imagine that you 'wasted your time' because something didn't turn out right. There is no such thing as 'waste' in the Universe. Everything — everything — yields benefit. It's true. And your life will show you this. So don't decry the 'effort that failed.' All things lead to your highest good. You just may not know it yet.

—Neale Donald Walsch

Making mistakes is a lot better than not doing anything.

—Billie Joe Armstrong

By seeking and blundering we learn.

--Johann Wolfgang Von  
Goethe

Defeat should never be a source of discouragement, but rather a fresh stimulus.

—Bishop Robert South

Isn't it funny that no matter how many good things we do, some people just remember us for the mistakes we have made?

—Unknown

If you have the will to win, you have achieved half your success; if you don't, you have achieved half your failure.

—David Ambrose

I've come to believe that all my past failure and frustration were actually laying the foundation for the understandings that have created the new level of living I now enjoy.

—Tony Robbins

Defeat is not bitter unless you swallow it.

—Joe Clark

The deepest personal defeat suffered by human beings is constituted by the difference between what one was capable of becoming and what one has in fact become.

--Ashley Montagu

Each man is capable of doing one thing well. If he attempts several, he will fail to achieve distinction in any.

—Plato

While we are young, the idea of death or failure is intolerable to us; even the possibility of ridicule we cannot bear.

--Isak Dinesen

Remember the two benefits of failure. First, if you do fail, you learn what doesn't work; and second, the failure gives you the opportunity to try a new approach.

—Roger von Oech

For too many parents and their children, acceptance by an elite institution isn't just another challenge, just another goal. A *yes* or *no* from Amherst or the University of Virginia or the University of Chicago is seen as the conclusive measure of a young person's worth, an incontestable harbinger of the accomplishments or disappointments to come. Winner or loser: This is when judgement is made.

—Frank Bruni

The only time you don't fail is the last time you try anything -- and it works.

—William Strong

If I ran a school, I'd give the average grade to the ones who gave me all the right answers, for being good parrots. I'd give the top grades to those who made a lot of mistakes and told me about them, and then told me what they learned from them.

—Buckminster Fuller

Too much of our present educational system emphasizes failure and too many children who attend school are failing. Unless we can provide schools where children, through a reasonable use of their capacities, can succeed, we will do little to solve the major problems of our country.

--William Glasser

You can get all A's and still flunk life.

—Walker Percy

If you fall flat on your face, at least you're moving forward.

—Richard Branson

Schools are structured in a manner that allows us to deliver a wealth of information and ideas to young people who lack our experience of and sophistication about the world. For the most part, educators assume that, if we cover something, the students have learned it. We talk, they listen. We present, they absorb. At the end of a year, when we have covered everything according to our plan, the students are deemed ready for the next level—at least most of them are. In some cases, students who do not make progress are subjected to another year of the same material, usually presented in the same way, usually with the same books, and often with the same teachers. Then, if they fail for a second time, we usually move them ahead anyway, because keeping them back at this point makes even less sense.

—Ted Sizer

To swear off making mistakes is very easy. All you have to do is swear off having ideas.

—Leo Burnett

If you keep on doing what you've always done, you'll keep on getting what you've always got.

—W. L. Bateman

Too much learning, too soon, before the child is ready and dealt out too hard is a 100% guarantee of failure both for the child as he attempts to learn, and for the school which is attempting to teach. Too little learning, too late after the learner is ready for it and needs it, and too lightly presented without depth and emphasis upon its worthwhileness, is a 100% guarantee of producing a whole new generation of mediocre achievers, regardless of their capacities and abilities.

—Genevieve B. Syverson

It is a mystery why adults expect perfection from children. Few grownups can get through a whole day without making a mistake.

--Marcelene Cox

We need to allow our children to fail, because struggle builds resilience and grit.

--Liza Mundy

The goal of assessment for learning is not to eliminate failure, but rather to keep failure from becoming chronic and thus inevitable in the mind of the learner. Duke University basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski has pointed out that the key to winning is to avoid losing twice in a row. He meant that if you lose once and fix it, you can remain confident. Losing twice, though, can raise questions, crack that confidence, and make recovery more difficult. So when learners suffer a failure, we must get them back to success as quickly as possible to restore their confidence in their capabilities. This is the emotional dynamic of assessment for learning.

—Rick Stiggins

Failure doesn't mean you're a failure...it just means you haven't succeeded yet.

—Robert Schuller

I claim the right to contradict myself. I don't want to deprive myself of the right to talk nonsense, and I ask humbly to be allowed to be wrong sometimes.

—Federico Fellni

Mistakes are the usual bridge between inexperience and wisdom.

—Phyllis Theroux

I have learned throughout my life as a composer chiefly through my mistakes and pursuits of false assumptions, not my exposure to founts of wisdom and knowledge.

--Igor Stravinsky

Students rarely disappoint teachers who assure them in advance that they are doomed to failure.

—Sidney Hook

Advice? Fail constantly. Because the word doesn't mean what you think it means, especially when you're an artist. I use the word artist to mean everything from songwriting to writing a novel to even writing video games. Anything that tells a story, which is almost any medium. Gotta take risks, you gotta go through multiple drafts which means you have to FAIL, a lot. So you won't always get the reaction you always want from every single person, so when you lose that fear of failure, when you stop even thinking of it as failure, and you push yourself farther, you'll take bigger risks, and eventually, after about six or seven hundred rejections, you'll find success. And you'll find a way of conveying what you really want to say, in the best manner.

—Victor Giannini

Better be wise by the misfortunes of others than by your own.

—Aesop

In school we learn that mistakes are bad, and we are punished for making them. Yet, if you look at the way humans are designed to learn, we learn by making mistakes. We learn to walk by falling down. If we never fell down, we would never walk.

—Robert T. Kiyosaki

Failure is a bend in the road, not the end of the road. Learn from failure and keep moving forward.

—Roy T. Bennett

If an apology is followed by an excuse or a reason, it means they are going to commit the same mistake again they just apologized for.

—Amit Kalantri

Tomorrow is always fresh, with no mistakes in it yet.

—L. M. Montgomery

It takes guts and humility to admit mistakes. Admitting we're wrong is courage, not weakness.

—Roy T. Bennett

You don't drown by falling into water. You only drown if you stay there.

—Zig Ziglar

You may only succeed if you desire succeeding; you may only fail if you do not mind failing.

—Philippos

If a book about failures doesn't sell, is it a success?

—Jerry Seinfeld

Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs even though checked by failure, than to rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy nor suffer much because they live in the gray twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat.

—Theodore Roosevelt

Every great work, every great accomplishment, has been brought into manifestation through holding to the vision, and often just before the big achievement, comes apparent failure and discouragement.

—Florence Scovel Shinn

Experience is simply the name we give our mistakes.

—Oscar Wilde

A computer lets you make more mistakes faster than any invention in human history—with the possible exceptions of handguns and tequila.

—Mitch Ratcliffe

Success is never final, failure is never fatal. It's courage that counts.

—John Wooden

Every failure is a kind of scientific necessity, leading away from what doesn't work to what does.

—Thomas Lassman

Results! Why, man, I have gotten a lot of results. I know several thousand things that won't work.

--Thomas A. Edison

Consultant James M. Bleech of Jacksonville, FL recently took a survey of 110 executives to find out which excuses they use most.

'It's not my fault'—a sort of generic denial of responsibility—headed the list. It was followed by, 'It's someone else's fault.'

'Something else came up,' was third, followed by 'I didn't have time' and 'We've never done it that way before.' The old standby, 'No one told me to do it' ranked sixth, at about half the frequency of the number one excuse.

Bringing up the rear: 'I had too many interruptions'; 'If only my supervisor really understood'; 'I will get to it later'; and 'No one showed me how to do it.'

Absent from the list—and it's probably just a matter of time—was 'The computers were down.'

—James M. Bleech,  
[1995]

The most may err as grossly as the few.

--John Dryden

Failure is central to engineering. Every single calculation that an engineer makes is a failure calculation. Successful engineering is all about understanding how things break or fail.

—Henry Petroski

I employ case studies of failure into my courses, emphasizing that they teach us much more than studies of success. It is not that success stories cannot serve as models of good design or as exemplars of creative engineering. They can do that, but they cannot teach us how close to failure they are.

—Henry Petroski

With engineering, I view this year's failure as next year's opportunity to try it again. Failures are not something to be avoided. You want to have them happen as quickly as you can so you can make progress rapidly.

—Gordon Moore

The way you learn anything is that something fails, and you figure out how not to have it fail again.

—Robert S. Arrighi

No one wants to learn by mistakes, but we cannot learn enough from successes to go beyond the state of the art

—Henry Petroski

The only way that American women will ever fully solve the 'women's problem' is by recognizing the quest for perfection for what it is: a myth. No woman can have it all, and by using *all* as the standard of success, we are only condemning ourselves and our daughters to failure.

--Deborah Spar

Mistakes, obviously, show us what needs improving. Without mistakes, how would we know what we had to work on

—Peter McWilliams

If you're doing your best, you won't have any time to worry about failure.

—H. Jackson Brown

A man is a failure who goes through life earning nothing but money.

--Charles A. Beard

Because I am a woman, I must make unusual efforts to succeed. If I fail, no one will say, 'She doesn't have what it takes'; They will say, 'Women don't have what it takes'.

--Clare Boothe Luce

Money may change everything, as Cyndi Lauper sang. But lack of money definitely ruins everything. Financial impotence casts a pall of misery. It keeps you up at night and makes you not want to get up in the morning. It forces you to recede from the world. It eats at your sense of self-worth, your confidence, your energy, and, worst of all, your hope. It is ruinous to relationships, turning spouses against each other in tirades of calumny and recrimination, and even children against parents... To fail—which by many economic standards, a very large number of Americans do—may constitute our great secret national pain, one that is deep and abiding. We are impotent.

—Neal Gabler

When a philosopher makes a mistake, no one knows the difference.

—Unknown

Curious that we spend more time congratulating people who have succeeded than encouraging people who have not.

—Neal deGrasse Tyson

Any failure we could suffer throughout our lives, will turn into little successes if we take the right path, keep walking.

—Sinelo Caliché

Everything happens for a reason. Sometimes the reason is you're stupid and you make bad decisions.

—Bill Murray

It is easier to recognize other people's mistakes than our own.

—Daniel Kahneman

The price of anger is failure.

--Elwood Hendricks

Tequila is a Mexican liquor typically consumed just prior to making or in order to forget a huge mistake.

—*TL;DR Wikipedia*

The best way to reduce stress in your life is to stop screwing up.

—Roy F. Baumeister

I would prefer even to fail with honor than win by cheating.

—Sophocles

Nothing is more humiliating than to see idiots succeed in enterprises we have failed in.

--Gustave Flaubert

No man ever achieved worth-while success who did not, at one time or other, find himself with at least one foot hanging well over the brink of failure.

—Napoleon Hill

Make ten consecutive correct guesses and you've established a reputation as an expert—which will last until you make one little mistake.

--Unknown

You've got to allow people to make mistakes, but only a little failure is tolerated; beyond that, 'you're gone.'

--Sergio Marchionne

Just because something doesn't go as planned, doesn't mean it wasn't worth your while. Sometimes you have to fall forward, by learning what doesn't work, to discover what does. Sometimes you have to get knocked down lower than ever before, so that you can stand up taller than you ever were before. Tears wash out our eyes so that we can have a clearer vision. Don't carry your mistakes around with you. Be strong enough to let go and wise enough to fight for what you deserve.

—Unknown from *The  
Angel Affect: The  
World Wide  
Mission*

It is an acknowledged fact that we perceive errors in the work of others more readily than in our own.

—Leonardo da Vinci

Believe and act as if it were impossible to fail.

--Charles Kettering

Failure sucks. If anyone tells you they learn more from failure than success, then they're wrong. You learn more from success. There are many more ways to fail than there are to succeed. If you've found the one thing that succeeds, that's great.

—Elon Musk

No matter how hard you work for success if your thought is saturated with the fear of failure, it will kill your efforts, neutralize your endeavors and make success impossible.

—Baudjuin

If you set your goals ridiculously high and it's a failure, you will fail above everyone else's success.

—James Cameron

Expect rejection, but expect even more strongly to overcome it. There will be many 'failures' sprinkled among the successes you enjoy. A failure becomes just one bad time at bat if you refuse to let it defeat you.

—Marvin Levy

Failure is costly, both to society and to individuals. Pretending that all people are equal in their abilities will not change the fact that a person with an average IQ is unlikely to become a theoretical physicist, or the fact that a person with a low level of music ability is unlikely to become a concert pianist. It makes more sense to pay attention to people's abilities and their likelihood of achieving certain goals, so people can make good decisions about the goals they want to spend their time, money, and energy pursuing.

—David Hambrick

Failure is not our only punishment for laziness: there is also the success of others.

--Jules Renard

Procrastination is the father of failure.

--Elbert Hubbard

So many fail because they don't get started - they don't go. They don't overcome inertia. They don't begin.

—Ben Stein

When someone says 'that's just my personality,' or 'that's just who I am,' they're often saying, 'I don't want to work on that flaw.'

—Erik Torenberg

Character is what you have left when you've lost everything else.

--Patricia Harris

Have patience with all things but first with yourself. Never confuse your mistakes with your value as a human being. You're a perfectly valuable, creative, worthwhile person simply because you exist. And no amount of triumphs or tribulations can ever change that. Unconditional self-acceptance is the core of a peaceful mind.

--St. Francis de Sales

The value of courage, persistence, and perseverance has rarely been illustrated more convincingly than in the life story of this man (his age appears in the column on the right):

Failed in business	22
Ran for Legislature—defeated	23
Again failed in business	24
Elected to Legislature	25
Sweetheart died	26
Had a nervous breakdown	27
Defeated for Speaker	29
Defeated for Elector	31
Defeated for Congress	34
Elected to Congress	37
Defeated for Congress	39
Defeated for Senate	46
Defeated for Vice President	47
Defeated for Senate	49
Elected President of the United States	51

That's the record of Abraham Lincoln.

--Unknown

Being challenged in life is inevitable; being defeated is optional.

—Roger Crawford

Determination and perseverance move the world; thinking that others will do it for you is a sure way to fail.

--Marva Collins

R. H. Macy failed seven times before his store in New York caught on.  
Novelist John Creasey got 753 rejection slips before he published the first of his 564 books.

Thomas Edison was thrown out of school in the early grades when the teachers decided he could not do the work.

Harry S. Truman failed as a haberdasher.

When Bob Dylan performed at a high school talent show, his classmates booed him off the stage.

W. Clement Stone, successful insurance company executive and founder of Success magazine, was a high school dropout.

--Joe Griffith

Persistent people begin their success where others end in failure.

--Edward Eggleston

Accept responsibility for your failures. Take courage from the fact that only you can turn them to success.

--J. Donald Walters

So far as I have observed in this life, ten men have failed from defect in morals where one has failed from defect in intellect.

--Horace Mann

This thing called success  
Consists, I have found,  
In making mistakes  
When no one's around.

--Stephen Schiltzer

The man who is afraid of making a big mistake will never make a big success; more opportunities are lost by over-preciseness than through carelessness.

--Sydney J. Harris

The difference between failure and success is doing a thing almost right and doing it exactly right.

--Edward Simmons

People always ask, 'How did you succeed?' Simply put, I chose not to fail.

--Xerona Clayton

If a man has a talent and cannot use it, he has failed. If he has a talent and uses only half of it, he has partly failed. If he has a talent and learns somehow to use the whole of it, he has gloriously succeeded, and won a satisfaction and a triumph few men ever know.

--Thomas Wolfe

The most important ingredient for success is the willingness to fail, to be made a fool of, to fall on your face a hundred times a day. And to be dumb. What makes repeated failure endurable is being in love with the work you do and being convinced of its value. Then the process becomes self-rewarding.

--Helen Tworkov

It is not enough to succeed. Others must fail.

--Gore Vidal

Failure is the result of not knowing what to do; success is the result of knowing what not to do.

--Unknown

Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm.

--Sir Winston Churchill

Anybody can sympathise with the sufferings of a friend, but it requires a very fine nature to sympathise with a friend's success.

—Oscar Wilde

My success was due to good luck, hard work, and support and advice from friends and mentors. But most importantly, it depended on me to keep trying after I had failed.

—Mark Warner

The man who lives for himself is a failure. Even if he gains much wealth, position or power he still is a failure. The man who lives for others has achieved true success. A rich man who consecrates his wealth and his position to the good of humanity is a success. A poor man who gives of his service and his sympathy to others has achieved true success even though material prosperity or outward honors never come to him.

--Norman Vincent Peale

If you live long enough, you'll see that every victory turns into a defeat.

—Simone de Beauvoir

If you're not prepared to be wrong, you'll never come up with anything original.  
—Sir Ken Robinson

In examining the potential of individuals, we must focus on their strengths and not just their mistakes. We cannot be limited by what they may have spilled in the kitchen.

—William Pollard

If things go wrong, don't go with them.

—Roger Babson

If you could erase all the mistakes of your past, you would also erase all the wisdom of your present.

—Unknown

Although I've envied other writers (and still do), I know I'm envied sometimes. Whenever I realize someone is envious of me, I'm like, '*You poor dumb shmuck, you have no idea that my life is boiling cauldron of failure and anxiety.*' But I always act super-cool and confident.

—Elizabeth Sims

Public assistance/welfare, crime and a lack of education is the syndrome of failure in the immigrant community.

--Francisco Avelar

Poverty is constructed so as to destroy aspiration; it is a system designed to be impervious to hope. The other America does not contain the adventurous seeking a new life and land. It is populated by the failures, by those driven from the land and bewildered by the city, by the old people suddenly confronted with the torments of loneliness and poverty, and by minorities facing a wall of prejudice.

--Michael Harrington

Defeat never comes to any man until he admits it.

—Josephus Daniels

Being a husband is a whole-time job. That is why so many husbands fail. They cannot give their entire attention to it.

--Arnold Bennett

It takes two to make a marriage a success and only one to make it a failure.  
--Herbert Samuel

Many marriages fail because couples cease to be sweethearts.  
--Marie Corelli

Some men profit by their mistakes, others get married a second time.  
—Evan Esar

Errors are inevitable. The mark of character is not refusing to recognize them, but acknowledging them and taking responsibility.  
—Andrew Sullivan

Everybody makes mistakes. The dumb part is staying with a mistake.  
—Dr. Laura

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.  
—Werner Karl  
Heisenberg

Don't hold postmortems. Don't spend your life brooding over sorrows and mistakes. Don't be one who never gets over things.  
--Robert Louis Stevenson

Don't let the darkness from your past block the light of joy in your present. What happened is done. Stop giving time to things which no longer exist, when there is so much joy to be found here and now.  
—Karen Salmansohn

To have had an unhappy life is to have failed in life. It is the one consummate error.  
--Llewelyn Powys

Christmas it seems to me is a necessary festival; we require a season when we can regret all the flaws in our human relationships: it is the feast of failure, sad but consoling.  
--Graham Greene

There is no failure that can alter the course of human events more than failing a family.  
--Eleanor McGovern

I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes.

Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're Doing Something.

So that's my wish for you, and all of us, and my wish for myself. Make New Mistakes. Make glorious, amazing mistakes. Make mistakes nobody's ever made before. Don't freeze, don't stop, don't worry that it isn't good enough, or it isn't perfect, whatever it is: art, or love, or work or family or life.

Whatever it is you're scared of doing, Do it.

Make your mistakes, next year and forever.

--Neil Gaiman

We should not look back unless it is to derive useful lessons from past errors, and for the purpose of profiting by dearly bought experience.

—George Washington

If it is a mistake of the head and not the heart don't worry about it, that's the way we learn.

—Earl Warren

Once we realize that imperfect understanding is the human condition there is no shame in being wrong, only in failing to correct our mistakes.

—George Soros

Dismiss the old horse in good time, lest he fail in the lists and the spectators laugh.

--Horace

How do children learn to correct their mistakes?

By watching how you correct yours.

How do children learn to overcome their failures?

By watching how you overcome yours.

How do children learn to treat themselves with forgiveness?

By watching you forgive yourself.

Therefore your mistakes, and/or failures are blessings, opportunities for the best in parenting.

And those who point out your mistakes are not your enemies, but the most valuable of friends.

--William Martin

That's life. Whichever way you turn, fate sticks out a foot to trip you.

—Martin Goldsmith

The biggest job we have is to teach a newly hired employee how to fail intelligently. We have to train him to experiment over and over and to keep on trying and failing until he learns what will work.

—Charles Kettering

The guns and the bombs, the rockets and the warships, are all symbols of human failure.

—Lyndon B. Johnson

Make failure your teacher, not your undertaker.

--Zig Ziglar

I don't really believe in regret. I think you can always learn from the past, but I wouldn't want a different life.

—Molly Ringwald

You need to stay positive in life. In sports, it means letting go of bad shots. In life, it means letting go of mistakes.

—Martina Navratilova

Despite the conference-keynote pablum about failure ('Fail fast! Fail often!'), the truth is that, financially and psychologically, failure sucks. In most companies, projects that don't work out are stigmatized, and their staffs are fired.

—Derek Thompson

Students are always at more risk than their teachers, which helps explain some students' delinquent behavior. They are afraid of failing, or being criticized and embarrassed in front of the class, so they reject the teacher first.

--Scott Berkun

What the small boy needs to know is that there are men in this world who are like him, black men, African-American men, who read and write and find the whole process of academics something valuable....The epidemic of academic failure in the African-American male population is not going to stop unless we, African-American men, begin to do the job that we can do.

--Spencer Holland

A mistake is something that happens accidentally. Cheating and lying are not accidents; they are choices.

—Internet Meme

One of life's most painful moments comes when we must admit that we didn't do our homework, that we are not prepared.

—Merlin Olsen

Often the difference between a successful person and a failure is not one has better abilities or ideas, but the courage that one has to bet on one's ideas, to take a calculated risk—and to act.

—Andre Malraux

At the end of a miserable day, instead of grieving my virtual nothing, I can always look at my loaded wastepaper basket and tell myself that if I failed, at least I took a few trees down with me.

--David Sedaris

Don't think of it as failure. Think of it as time-released success.

—Robert Orben

Failure isn't something to be embarrassed about; it's just proof that you're pushing your limits, trying new things, daring to innovate.

--Gavin Newsom

I know there's a proverb that says 'To err is human,' but a human error is nothing to what a computer can do if it tries.

--Agatha Christie

It's really difficult to be a human. Like, have you ever done something awkward... and then thought about it for 8 years?

—Daniel Simonsen

We don't grow unless we take risks. Any successful company is riddled with failures.

—James E. Burke

The fatal law of gravity; when you are down, everything falls down on you.

—Sylvia T. Warner

Confessed faults are half mended.

—Scottish Proverb

To bear failure with courage is the best proof of character that anyone can give.

—W. Somerset Maugham

People are fond of spouting out the old cliché about how Van Gogh never sold a painting in his lifetime. Somehow his example serves to justify to us, decades later, that there is somehow merit in utter failure. Perhaps, but the man did commit suicide.

—Hugh Macleod

No one who cannot rejoice in the discovery of his own mistakes deserves to be called a scholar.

—Donald Foster

Success is usually the culmination of controlling failure.

—Sylvester Stallone

You will never stub your toe standing still. The faster you go, the more chance there is of stubbing your toe, but the more chance you have of getting somewhere.

—Charles Kettering

Doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will.

—Suzy Kassem

We must expect to fail... but fail in a learning posture, determined not to repeat the mistakes, and to maximize the benefits from what is learned in the process.

—Ted W. Engstrom

A failure is not always a mistake, it may simply be the best one can do under the circumstances. The real mistake is to stop trying.

—B. F. Skinner

Writing is frustration—it's daily frustration, not to mention humiliation. It's just like baseball: you fail two-thirds of the time.

—Philip Roth

Failing a test is usually an indicator of how bad a student is doing, but it can also be an indicator of how bad the teacher is doing.

—Internet Meme

Success is 99 percent failure.

—Soichiro Honda

There are seven things that will destroy us:

Wealth without work;

Pleasure without conscience;

Knowledge without character;

Religion without sacrifice;

Politics without principle;

Science without humanity;

Business without ethics.

—Gandhi

Look in my face; my name is Might-have-been;

I am also call'd No-more, Too-late, Farewell.

—Dante Gabriel Rossetti

If a man cannot forget, he will never amount to much.

—Soren Kierkegaard

Excuses are the nails used to build a house of failure.

—Don Wilder and Bill  
Rechin

Academic failure contributes to poverty and poor health and undermines workforce productivity in ways that harm the entire society.

—Anthony Biglan

Mankind accepts good fortune as his due, but when bad occurs, he thinks it was aimed at him, done to him, a hex, a curse, a punishment by his deity for some transgression, as though his god were a petty storekeeper, counting up the day's receipts.

—Sheri S. Tepper

Some rise by sin, and some by virtue fall.

—William Shakespeare

If one has made a mistake, and fails to correct it, one has made a greater mistake.

—Plato

Indecision and delays are the parents of failure.

—George Canning

Many teens feel hemmed in by mistakes they've made, and it's important for them to realize that their mistakes and bad choices don't always have to define them. That hopefully their lives will be full of second and third and fourth chances.

—Jandy Nelson

Nothing makes a person desire improvement like failure.

—Chris Stocking

Great losses are great lessons.

—Amit Kalantri

The surest path to success is to learn to have a healthy relationship with failure. If we aren't failing, then we aren't doing anything interesting.

—Kristen Lamb

It's not about winning, it's about not giving up. If you have a dream, fight for it. There's discipline for passion and it's not about how many times you get rejected or you fall down or you're beaten up, it's about how many times you stand up and are brave and you keep on going.

—Lady Gaga

There is only one thing that makes a dream impossible to achieve: the fear of failure.

—Paulo Coelho

The harder you fall, the heavier your heart; the heavier your heart, the stronger you climb; the stronger you climb, the higher your pedestal.

—Criss Jami

Helen Keller became deaf, dumb, and blind shortly after birth. Despite her greatest misfortune, she has written her name indelibly in the pages of the history of the great. Her entire life has served as evidence that no one is ever defeated until defeat has been accepted as reality.

—Napoleon Hill

Don't ever perceive other people's success as your own failure.

—Rob Liano

Snowplow parenting is an evolution of helicopter parenting. Helicopter parents just hover over their children all the time. But snowplow parents actively try to plow through obstacles so their children don't have to clear their own path.

Although snowplow parents often think they are making things easier for their children, they are making things more difficult.

They really are not helping, because the child never learns how to fail. And learning to fail, learning that you can survive failure, is one of the most important lessons in life....Parents should let their children handle their own issues. Children should be responsible for making their own decisions—and for living with the consequences of those decisions. They will make mistakes, but they can learn from their mistakes.

—Cecelia Horan

Don't be afraid to fail. Like asking out the pretty girl, you'll feel better for trying than wondering what would have happened.

—Pete Croatto

This the philosophy I am trying to change—the philosophy, inherent in much of our education, that if you fail a child that will cause him to buckle down and work hard; it will make a new man of him. It just doesn't work that way. Most of us...know that all you learn from failing is how to fail. And in our schools we are teaching many, many children how to fail.

—William Glasser

You are young, so young  
that failure seems impossible.

—Ben Ditmars

Aim of the moon. That way, if you miss, you're a disappointment on a much larger scale.

—Brian Essbe

An old man said, 'Erasers are made for those who make mistakes.' A youth replied, 'Erasers are made for those who are willing to correct their mistakes!'  
Attitude matters.

—Internet Meme

Do not regret past mistakes. All decisions, good or bad, led you to where you are today. (Disregard this if you are in prison.)

—Internet Meme

You learn more from failing than you do from succeeding. It's important to befriend failure; it's not pleasant, and it's painful, but it's necessary to grow. I wish everyone a manageable failure at one point in life. You learn about grit and how to pull yourself out of a tough situation.

—Laura Linney

Rock bottom will teach you lessons that mountain tops never will.

—Internet Meme

The key to success is having no qualms about failure.

—Richelle E. Goodrich