

What Is “Success” to You?

Key Vocabulary Expressions

1. Your future self
2. To align
3. To live in the moment
4. Stage of life
5. To measure success
6. It's not all it's cracked up to be
7. Down the line

Lindsay: Okay. Hey Molly and Susan. How (are) you doing?

Susan: Hey, how (are) you doing?

Lindsay: Today we're gonna (going to) talk about success. What is success to you? Molly, what's success?

Molly: (Um), I think that my point of view regarding success has changed a lot over the years, (like) when I was fresh out of college and thought that, (you know), great jobs were easy to get and money was really important, I

probably would've described success in different ways than I do now.

Susan: Yeah. (Uh-hm).

Molly: (Um), now, I would say that I, I see kind of two elements as important in defining success. One is that you're in your current state in your life doing something that you enjoy on a daily basis in terms of your job, (you know), your hobbies, just generally being able to enjoy your life and sustain your lifestyle. And then the other thing that actually came out of some book my sister made me read was trying to identify what **your future self** would want and then working towards that, because I think a lot of people can't kind of **align** what they will want when they're older with what they are working towards now. So they'll work really hard and not take vacation and not take any

breaks so that they can save money and then when they're older they say "I would've really liked to enjoy my youth more."

Susan: Yes.

Molly: So it's, it's partially **living in the moment**, (um), and not saving great opportunities for the future, but it's about really thinking about what you're actually going to want **down the line** and, and working towards that.

Lindsay: Yeah, that's interesting. So kind of finding that balance between the future and the present. Really cool. (Huh). Okay. Great. So Susan how 'bout (about) you? What do you think success is?

Susan: (Um) yeah, I agree with Molly that it's (um) the, (you know), the happiness that you feel in life. (Like) I recently had a very -- a couple of years ago, I had a very stressful job, was working all the time, I wasn't taking my vacation, I couldn't sleep at night, I was working, (you know), 12 hour days and I wasn't happy. And then I left that job and got a job that made me happy and now it's really -- it made a huge difference in my life. (You know), I'm sleeping, I'm happy, I'm not, (you know), constantly thinking about work, constantly worrying, constantly checking my email on my (uh) Blackberry, (you

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know), and it's really just – I feel like my life has completely turned around. It's (a) much healthier way to live too.

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Molly: Yeah, yeah. I, I do think though that there's how I actually view success and then, (like), my panic mode success, like if there's a high school reunion coming up or you're running into an ex-boyfriend, and you're looking at the measures by which you might regard success in other people and I think a lot of that unfortunately does have to do with, (um), your job title, (um), and how much you make. (Um) and often at the **stage of life** that I'm in, I find

it's whether or not my friends are buying houses versus renting. That seems to be a huge measure of success and then there's this new vocabulary that enters your life, (like) people are talking about their "closings" and...

Susan: Yeah.

Molly: ...(you know), various real estate jargon because that's kind of like the marker of success as you're entering your 30's.

Susan: Yes. (Uh-hm), I agree.

Lindsay: Yeah, that's interesting. So learning how to kind of -- I don't know, not **measure success** by out -- someone else's...

Susan: Yeah.

Lindsay: ...terms. But it's hard. It's really hard.

Molly: Yeah, it's like a – it's almost a self-worth thing. It's like on the one hand, really all you want is to be happy, but on the other hand, part of that is how other people regard you.

Susan: (Uh-hm). And sometimes it helps when you do have those friends that have those million-dollar homes and their houses, their lives seem perfect and then they talk to you and you realize they're not that happy, they're kind of miserable and you then you think 'Well, maybe **it's not all (that) it's cracked, that it's cracked up to be.**'"

Molly: Or, or that they have -- maybe they're not miserable, but they have the exact same stresses as you.

Susan: Yes. (Uh-hm, uh-hm).

Lindsay: Absolutely. That's great. I love this topic. Thank you guys.

Susan: Sure. No problem.

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