



Destined for Success!

Life is full of surprises, and sometimes they're great ones. Just ask Monique Wallace. At 16, she was ready to drop out of school. Then something surprising happened.

"My biology teacher, Ms. Kirkwood, saw a drawing of a cell I did," Monique says. "She said, 'Monique, how did you learn to draw like that? You're an **old hand**.' I told her that I was always drawing but never thought much about it. The next thing you know, she has me in the graphic design program at school. I've been **busy as a bee** since."

Students in the program work with traditional drawing and sketching tools, but they also use computers. That's where Monique's real talent shines.

When you watch her **fingers furiously flying** across the keyboard, you'd never believe she almost never found her calling as a designer. "At first, I was lost," Monique says. "The kids in that class were way ahead of me, but my aunt always used to say **fake it 'til you make it**, and that's just what I did. Within a couple of months I was a **machine** on those programs. I was even helping the other students. Once I could **pull my own weight**, I started pulling others along with me."

"Monique is no **bump on a log**, and she doesn't let anyone else get away with being one, either," Max Wells, director of the program said. "We do a lot of signs and projects for student organizations, and Monique tackles **mountains of work**. If others don't show the same amount of **oomph!**, she gets them going."

"This is fun," Monique says. "Who wouldn't love creating things every day. I still think I'm dreaming when I come in this room, and I can't thank my teachers enough. **The sky's the limit** for me!"

Monique plans to graduate from high school, get a degree in graphic design, and begin a design career. And it all happened because of one drawing of a cell.

HELP WANTED

Want to join the area's fastest-paced service team? The Coffee House is looking for servers who can **pull their own weight** and enjoy being **busy as bees**. You bring the **oomph!**, and we'll provide the training until you're a service **machine**! Call Brian at 555-0197. No **bumps on logs**, please!



Finish the Thought _____

1. Mom said, "Don't just sit there like a **bump on a log**, get up and _____

2. Audrey said, "I'm **busy as a bee** today. First, I have to _____,
and then I have to _____
3. I really want to _____, so I'll just **fake it 'til I make it** by

4. Thanks to her **furiously flying fingers**, she _____

5. My dad is a **machine** when it comes to _____. He can

6. Uncle Ted has a **mountain of work** to do around the house before he can _____

7. My grandpa became an **old hand** at carpentry by _____

8. I like your drawing, but maybe you could _____
_____ to give it a little more **oomph!**
9. Ramon camped with his friend's family and tried to **pull his own weight** by _____

10. Our math teacher said, "In life, **the sky's the limit** if you _____

The Olde Country at Club Static

Halfway through the first song, Lisa Lander, lead singer of The Olde Country put down her microphone. She stared at her guitar player. His fingers were furiously flying on the frets until he stopped and let a stray, tuneless power chord **blare** through the club. Then a **screech** filled the speakers, and everyone plugged their ears.

Lisa started screaming at the band, and the audience agreed with her. The song was a mess. It had recently become a **big hit** and should have brought **thunderous applause**. Instead, many in the crowd were laughing and hooting. Lisa picked up her microphone and yelled, “**Take it from the top, boys,**” but the crowd was not interested. Since tickets for this show could be had **for a song**, people didn’t care if they walked out. And most of them did. The Olde Country might think of themselves as a metal band, but after last night, they’re probably just singing **the blues**.

The Olde Country came into town **amped** to play this show. They felt like big-time rock stars, but they’ll be leaving **singing a different tune**. Maybe with more practice, someday they’ll become old hands at performing live.

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Corky Clatter, the One-Man Wonder

I started out as a concert pianist. I practiced like crazy and entered competitions. But other guys **beat me like a drum** every time. I got tired of losing, so I decided to **take it from the top** and do my own thing. That’s how the “One-Man Wonder” thing started.

It came to me in a dream. I saw exactly the instrument I wanted to create. I won’t lie; it was a mountain of work to put it all together. For months I was busy as a bee gathering the parts. Most of the things I got **for a song** at garage sales. When people see me strap it all on, they think I’m just going to **blare** away. I love seeing the look of surprise on their faces when they hear how good I make it all sound.

Yes or No?

Circle Yes or No to answer each question. Be ready to give reasons for your answer.

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Is someone who's amped to do something shy? | Yes | No |
| 2. If you get beat like a drum , are you happy with the outcome? | Yes | No |
| 3. When something is a big hit , do a lot of people like it? | Yes | No |
| 4. Can you sleep easily with a blaring sound outside your window? | Yes | No |
| 5. If you got something for a song , was it a good deal? | Yes | No |
| 6. Would a screechy sound be soothing? | Yes | No |
| 7. Might someone who sang a different tune have changed his mind? | Yes | No |
| 8. If you're asked to take it from the top , did you get it right the first time? | Yes | No |
| 9. Does getting the blues make you feel joyful? | Yes | No |
| 10. Is a crowd who gives thunderous applause disappointed? | Yes | No |
-

In Your Own Words

1. What's something you would be **amped** to try?
2. When have you been **beaten like a drum** at something?
3. What's something you've done that has been a **big hit** with your friends?
4. What's a **blaring** sound that you'd hate to hear in the middle of the night?
5. Have you ever bought something **for a song**? What was it?
6. Tell me something that makes a **screeching** sound.
7. What would make you **sing a different tune** about how you feel about your favorite teacher?
8. What's something you didn't do right the first time and had to **take it from the top**?
9. When is the last time you felt **the blues**? Why?
10. Who is someone you would greet with **thunderous applause**?

Cooking Class

Cat and Shelley are **like two peas in a pod**. Every summer when school gets out, they take a fun class together. Last summer, they took a sewing class and felt like quite the fashionistas. This summer, Cat found a cooking class they could take for a song. Cat has never cooked a thing in her life, and she's a little scared. She feels like she's jumping from **the frying pan into the fire**. Shelley considers herself a **foodie** and thinks the class will be a **piece of cake!**

The counters of the classroom were covered in a **smorgasbord** of wild ingredients like kumquats, chocolate chunks, and tiny tomatoes. A **sizzle** of meat and vegetables led them to their instructor who was standing in front of a hot plate. "Don't be scared, girls. The best way to learn to cook is to experiment and not be afraid of failure. **Go bananas** and try new things!"

Cat and Shelley had no idea where to begin. Shelley picked up a kumquat and bit into it. Its juice hit her tongue and she wrinkled her nose. All of her confidence melted away. "I don't know about this, Cat," she said. "This is **sickeningly sweet**."

"Just keep your shirt on," Cat said. "Let's mix it with something less sweet like these cranberries and watermelon. How about a funky fruit salad?" Shelley nodded in agreement.

The instructor tasted it and said, "I would have never combined these fruits before. Great work, girls!" Their fruit salad was a big hit. Cat couldn't wait to go back and experiment some more.



Special Notice to Dorm Residents

Housekeeping is not responsible for washing your dishes. If you cook something, clean it up.

Here's some **food for thought**: since you are adults, it's time to think about personal responsibility and how you can take care of yourself. It's equally important to begin thinking about the well-being of others.

When you leave dirty dishes **stacked to the ceiling**, you're saying you don't care about your fellow residents or the housekeeping staff.

Some of you leave dirty dishes out expecting someone else to take care of them. You'd be singing a different tune if someone stacked their filthy laundry on your bed. Nobody is here to clean up after you. Grow up!

When you have your own place, feel free to **go bananas** with your dirty dishes. Until then, those of us in Carlson West expect you to respect others and clean up after yourselves.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Definitions, *continued*

sizzle/sizzling

onomatopoeia

- *definition:* the sound of food cooking; a person doing something outstanding with a lot of flair
- *usage tip:* when describing a performer, athlete, or person doing something amazing
- *correct:* The singer **sizzled** on stage under all those red lights.
- *incorrect:* I played **sizzling** guitar licks the first time I tried to practice.

smorgasbord

jargon

- *definition:* a large assortment of food or a wide variety of choices in one place
- *usage tip:* to describe not only a lot of choices, but a great variety of possibilities
- *correct:* The books in the library contain a **smorgasbord** of ideas and experiences.
- *incorrect:* The cafeteria serves up a **smorgasbord** of at least three items every day.

stacked to the ceiling

hyperbole

- *definition:* a large pile of something
- *usage tip:* to describe laundry, paperwork, books, or something that needs to be taken care of
- *correct:* The weather was perfect, but I had homework **stacked to the ceiling**.
- *incorrect:* My four pairs of jeans were **stacked to the ceiling**, and I didn't know where to keep them.

Making Associations

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| A. food for thought | F. piece of cake |
| B. foodie | G. sickeningly sweet |
| C. from the frying pan to the fire | H. sizzling |
| D. go bananas | I. smorgasbord |
| E. like two peas in a pod | J. stacked to the ceiling |

Write the letter of the choice that goes best with:

1. an easy math problem. _____
2. thinking you're babysitting one infant and finding out there are three. _____
3. a romantic song with a lot of details about people in love. _____
4. advice from a good friend. _____
5. someone who dreams about her next meal. _____
6. a kid with \$10 in a chocolate shop. _____
7. brothers who like exactly the same things. _____
8. folding a hundred towels. _____
9. a park that has tons of different kinds of playground equipment. _____
10. a performer who is getting the crowd excited. _____

Advice: Managing Your Money

Claire and Keenan have had part-time jobs for a year. Here's some money advice they want to share:

“Before I found a job, I was **dirt poor**. I didn't even have money to go to the movies. I didn't **strike it rich**, but I did find a good job at a restaurant. I've even had a few brushes with greatness when I've waited on famous actors. But in this town, actors are a **dime a dozen**. Anyway, here's how I handle my money. When I get my check, I put half of it in the bank to **save for a rainy day**. Then I spend the rest. I do it that way every two weeks. You can **bank on it!**”

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“I used to be chicken about talking to strangers. But since I started working at the video game store, I talk to everybody. Some of my friends have a **free ride** in life. If something costs a **pretty penny**, they don't care. They just ask Mom or Dad. I guess someday they'll have to **pay the piper**. If I want something, I have to **work like a dog** to earn it. I'm not great at saving money. When I do spend some, I only buy quality things. For example, my bike is built like a Mack truck. That means it will last a long time. And if I want to get something different, it will be worth some money when I sell it.”

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Match It

Write the letter in the blank of the figurative language expression that best completes each thought.

1. If you can **bank on** a person, you know his word is _____.
 - a. as good as gold
 - b. not worth a dime
 2. If something is a **dime a dozen**, it's _____.
 - a. worth a look
 - b. not worth the trouble
 3. If you're **dirt poor**, you _____.
 - a. have it made
 - b. don't have two nickels to rub together
 4. Someone who has a **free ride** is _____.
 - a. on easy street
 - b. going down a bumpy road
 5. When you've done something wrong and have to **pay the piper**, you _____.
 - a. face the music
 - b. make a narrow escape
 6. Something that costs a **pretty penny** should be _____.
 - a. a dime a dozen
 - b. worth its weight in gold
 7. When you **save for a rainy day**, you _____.
 - a. put yourself behind the eight ball
 - b. have a plan B
 8. If something is a **steal**, you got it for _____.
 - a. a song
 - b. a pretty penny
 9. After you **strike it rich**, you _____.
 - a. are in a tight spot
 - b. have it made
 10. After **working like a dog**, you feel _____.
 - a. used up
 - b. raring to go
-

In Your Own Words

1. Who is someone you know who you can **bank on** always being helpful?
2. What's something you think is a **dime a dozen**?
3. What do you think it means to be **dirt poor**?
4. What's something you'd like to have a **free ride** to do?
5. Tell me about a time when you had to **pay the piper**.
6. What's something you'd like to have that costs a **pretty penny**?
7. Would you rather spend all the money you get or **save some for a rainy day**? Why?
8. What's something you or someone in your family bought that was a **steal**?
9. What's something you could do to **strike it rich**?
10. Tell me about a time you had to **work like a dog**.