

Effortless English

What Is Success?

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If we want to be successful, we must first be able to **define** success. What is success? What does it mean.

Mainstream culture tells us that success equals money. Most people think that rich people are successful, and poor people aren't. That, however, is a very **shallow** idea of success. If someone is **miserable**, angry, unhealthy, and lonely- are they successful (even if they are rich)? I don't think so.

Most of us need to **broaden** our idea of success. I define success in terms of health, connection, and freedom. Without physical health, nothing else **matters**. We cannot enjoy life if we are constantly weak, tired, and sick. Mental health is also important- true success brings happiness, even **ecstasy**.

Does money automatically bring happiness and ecstasy? Obviously not. In fact, money often brings stress. Many people who suddenly become rich are very unhappy. Some even **commit suicide**.

Connection is another **vital** part of success. Most human beings need to feel connected to other people. We suffer when we are lonely. To be successful, we must have friends and we must know how to connect to other people. Kindness and **compassion** are important ingredients for true success.

Finally, we need to be free to be successful. Of course physical freedom is important- its hard to be successful if you are locked in a prison somewhere. Financial freedom, however, is also important.

Many people don't understand **financial** freedom. They think that if you have a lot of money, you must be financially free. This is not true. Financial freedom means you have many financial choices. It means you have excellent cash flow. It means you have total control over your **finances**.

For example, many people who appear rich are not, in fact, financially free. Why not? Because they owe more money than they actually have. They have a big, expensive house-- and thus a big expensive house loan. They have a big expensive car loan. They have a large amount of credit card debt. They have many **bills**.

On the outside, they appear rich. But their situation is very dangerous. They could easily lose everything if their income changed suddenly. Another problem-- these people don't have many financial **options**. They are already spending more than they have, so they have fewer options for **investing in** new opportunities.

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Its much better to think of financial freedom in terms of **cash flow**. Cash flow simply means that you have more money coming in than is going out. In other words, you make more than you spend every month. I call this building the “postive gap”

The bigger the difference between what you make and what you spend every month-- the greater financial freedom you have.

So there are two steps to financial freedom:

1. **Drastically** reduce what you spend. In other words- simplify every part of your life.
2. Increase your income. In other words- make more money.

Most people focus on number 2, “make more money”. But number 1 is actually more important, and its the first thing you should focus on.

When I started Effortless English, I was making very little money. I started the business with only 200 dollars. Most people thought I would fail. However, I had a secret advantage-- even though I was making very little money at my job, I was spending even less. I had a big postive gap. I had financial **flexibility**. I could live for many months without money from the business. Also, I could take some of my extra money and invest it in the business.

I lived in a tiny one room apartment with the cheapest rent in San Francisco. In fact, I still live in the same apartment, even though I could **afford** something much more expensive. Why? Because I want to maximize my financial freedom. I can take the money I save and re-invest it in Effortless English.

This is what you must do too. Your first step is to simplify your life until you are spending less than you make. Then simplify even more, so that you are spending MUCH less than you make.

Do not try to start a new business, or invest, until you accomplish this first.

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