

Select Readings, Second Edition
Pre-Intermediate, Chapter 11 Test

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

Late Bloomers

Are you a late bloomer? Not all of us are able to succeed early in life. Some people need time to gather experience and make sense of the world around them. However, late bloomers can become the driving forces of the world simply because they have taken time to gather ideas, information, and knowledge before coming up with some incredible solutions to the world's problems.

Many of the world's most famous late bloomers were not good students. Others spent many years in a dead-end career, or not even knowing what career they were meant for. Still others were socially awkward and found it hard to make friends and talk to people.

History is filled with people who didn't succeed at first, or who failed several times before they went on to accomplish much. Here are just a few of those stories.

Mohammed Ali

Probably the world's best and most famous boxer of all time graduated 376th out of 391 students in his high school. With three world championships under his belt, no other boxer in history comes close to his success.

Winston Churchill

Regularly punished by his teachers for his poor work in school and lack of effort, Churchill went on to become the prime minister of the United Kingdom twice, and led Britain through World War II. He is still considered one of the greatest leaders of all time.

Albert Einstein

Regarded as the most important scientist of the 20th century, Einstein was not always a good student. A childhood speech problem caused many of his teachers to regard him as 'slow.' Now, his name is synonymous with the word 'genius.'

So don't worry if you think you are not as successful as other people your age. Just like these famous late bloomers, you might just have more to give than you know.

1. What is a "late bloomer"?
 - A. A person who is successful at a young age
 - B. A person who is a good student at school
 - C. A person who has a problem choosing their career
 - D. A person who becomes successful later in life
2. In paragraph 1, what word could be used instead of "driving forces"?
 - A. Students
 - B. Leaders
 - C. Successes
 - D. Friends
3. Which of the following is not true about late bloomers, according to the reading?

- A. They were not good in school.
 - B. They often chose bad careers.
 - C. They had a hard time making friends.
 - D. They knew what they wanted to do at a young age.
4. In paragraph 2, what is a “dead-end career”?
- A. A dangerous job
 - B. A job without a future
 - C. A job later in life
 - D. A meaningful job
5. Which of the following statements about Mohammed Ali is not a fact?
- A. He graduated near the bottom of his class in school.
 - B. He is the most famous boxer of all time.
 - C. He has won three world championships in his career.
 - D. He has won more championships than most other boxers.
6. Why was Winston Churchill punished?
- A. Because he was prime minister of Britain
 - B. Because he fought in World War II
 - C. Because he tried to be a leader
 - D. Because he didn't put effort into his school work
7. In paragraph 6, what does “slow” mean?
- A. Not smart
 - B. Not able to speak
 - C. Speaking slowly
 - D. Not hard-working
8. Which of the following statements is true, according to the passage?
- A. Mohammed Ali became a great success, even without finishing high school.
 - B. 'Einstein' now means the same thing as 'genius.'
 - C. Churchill did not have many friends in school.
 - D. Churchill and Einstein were born around the same time.
9. Which late bloomer was known for not working hard at school?
- A. Mohammed Ali
 - B. Winston Churchill
 - C. Albert Einstein
 - D. All of the above
10. From this passage, we can infer that _____.
- A. not all late bloomers will become successful
 - B. not all people are able to figure out what career they want
 - C. not all successful people begin as great successes
 - D. successful people don't generally do well in school