

➤ Cue Card

Describe a difficult thing you did that was successful

You should say:

- What it was**
- How you completed it**
- Why it was difficult**
- And explain how you felt about doing it**

Please Note:

Our model answers teach you useful language and give you ideas. However, it is not a good idea to try and memorise them and repeat them in the IELTS exam.



Prepare for {IELTS}

A **triumph** is a big success, achievement or victory

If you **pass** an exam, test or course, you complete it successfully

to detest = to dislike/hate something or somebody very strongly

If you have a **creative flair**, you have a natural ability to use your imagination well

If you pass your exam **with flying colors**, you complete the exam very easily and successfully, and have a very good result

If something is **beyond** you, it is impossible for you to understand it

I've decided to tell you about one of my greatest **triumphs**: **passing** my end-of-year science exam last summer.

I should start by making it clear that I **detest** chemistry, biology and physics. I have a **creative flair** and hope to become a fashion designer, so I got through my art exams **with flying colors**, but science is **beyond** me. I'm completely out of my depth. To make matters worse, the teacher doesn't inspire me. She stands at the front, droning on in her monotonous voice, and expects us to take notes and learn all that incomprehensible terminology off by heart. I can't bear it!

The problem is that getting a decent grade in science is an entry requirement for university. There's no point applying if you fail it, and you only get one chance. You can't retake it. At the start of the course, none of it made any sense. I sat in class in a daze. It went completely over my head. But when I came bottom of the class for my first assignment, my mum told me off and said I'd better pull my socks up. From that moment on, I turned over a new leaf. I wrote down every word the teacher said, looked up all the weird terms and made a revision plan. I've never tried so hard in all my life. Even the teacher noticed and praised me.

I had butterflies on the day of the exam. It was make or break! When I got my results, I breathed a huge sigh of relief. I'd passed by the skin of my teeth. I felt proud of myself. I'd shown commitment and determination and achieved my goals. I'd proved to myself that I could be academic when necessary.

If you are **out of your depth**, you do not have the knowledge, information, experience or skill to deal with a situation

We use the expression **To make matters worse** to indicate that something has made a bad situation even more difficult

to drone on = to talk for a long time and in a boring way

If something is **monotonous**, it is boring because it does not change

If you **take notes**, you listen to what the teacher says and write down the most important things

incomprehensible = impossible to understand

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terminology = special words or expressions which are only used when you are talking about a particular subject (such as science)

If you learn something **(off) by heart**, you learn it so that you can later repeat it from memory

If you **can't bear** something, you dislike/hate it so much that you cannot tolerate or accept it

An **entry requirement** is something you need to achieve/have before a school, university, country etc. will allow you to go in

There's no point (+ -ing) = there is no purpose; it is a waste of time

to retake = to do a test, exam or course again because you failed it

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If you are **in a daze**, you cannot think clearly

If something (such as information) goes **over your head**, it is too difficult or strange for you to understand

An **assignment** is a piece of work which your teacher or boss asks you to complete

If a teacher/parent **tells** you **off**, they speak angrily to you because they are unhappy that you did something wrong/bad

to pull your socks up = to stop being lazy and to start making a lot more effort

to turn over a new leaf = to start behaving in a better way

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If you **look up**, you find out information about it, perhaps by using a dictionary or encyclopedia

weird = strange; unusual

a **term** = a word/expression which is used when talking about a particular subject, often to describe something technical or official

to praise = to say positive things about a person's achievements or characteristics

to have butterflies (in your stomach) = to feel nervous about something which is going to happen

We use the term **make or break** to refer to the factor which will decide whether you succeed or fail

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You **breathe a huge sigh of relief** when something bad which you were worried about does not happen

If you pass an exam **by the skin of your teeth**, you are successful, but only just!

commitment = willingness to give your time and effort to achieve what you want to achieve

determination = the ability to continue doing something, even though it is difficult

academic = connected to studying and thinking

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