

# ➤ Cue Card

**Describe an ambition you have not achieved**

**You should say:**

- . What it is**
- . What you have done to try to achieve it**
- . Why you haven't achieved it**
- . And explain how you feel about 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.**



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**Prepare for {IELTS}**

**dozens of** = quite a large number of; lots of; many of

If you **set yourself a goal**, you give yourself a target which you want to achieve

**proficiently** = at a very high level; without making mistakes; showing lots of skill and experience

If you **succeed** in doing something, you achieve what you aimed for or what you planned to do

If you are **mesmerized** by something, you concentrate fully on it and cannot think about anything else

**dexterity** = the ability to do something quickly, skilfully and effectively with your hands

I'm afraid to say that there are **dozens of goals I've set myself** and not managed to achieve. I promised myself that by the time I was twenty, I would be able to speak Russian **proficiently** and would be the world's top chess player. Sadly, I **haven't succeeded** with either of those things. But the failure that hurts most is my inability to learn to play the piano properly.

When I was about ten, my auntie took me to a concert. I was **mesmerized** by the speed and **dexterity** of the pianist's fingers and by the wonderful sound the instrument created. As soon as I got home, I pleaded with my parents to let me have lessons and begged them to get me a piano. Eventually they bought a second-hand one.

At first, I was really committed and enthusiastic. I practised from dawn till dusk. I was sure my dream of becoming a concert pianist would come true. But after a while my interest began to wane. Schoolwork got in the way, I started dating another student and took up judo. As well as that, the stretching exercises I had to do made my fingers ache. I got a bit disillusioned, partly because I wasn't exactly improving in leaps and bounds. So the piano ended up sitting in the dining-room, gathering dust.

It was a bitter pill to swallow when I realised I wasn't going to make the grade. I suppose I disappointed myself by not doing what I set out to do. I like to see myself as someone who can succeed and accomplish things. I let myself down.



If you **plead** with somebody to do something, you make a strong emotional request

If you **beg** somebody to do something, you make a very strong and urgent request

If you buy something **second-hand**, it is not new

**committed** = willing to give a lot of time and energy to something

**enthusiastic** = willing to put a lot of energy into an activity; being very keen to be involved in something

If you do something **from dawn till dusk**, you do it from the beginning of the day until the end of the day

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If your **interest/enthusiasm begins to wane**, you start to feel less interested or less enthusiastic

**to date** = to regularly meet somebody who you have a romantic relationship with

**to take up** = to start doing a new sport or activity

**stretching** = pulling something so that you make it longer; making part of your body very straight so that it is as long as possible

If you are/get/become **disillusioned**, you start to feel disappointed about something when you discover it is not as good as you expected/hoped

If you **improve in leaps and bounds**, you get better very quickly

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**to end up** = to finally be in a particular place or situation

If something **gathers/collects dust**, it remains unused for a long time

**a bitter pill to swallow** = a truth which is unpleasant but which you must accept

If you **make the grade**, your level is good enough to succeed

**to set out** = to start an activity with a particular aim, goal or target

**to accomplish** = to finish something successfully; to achieve what you wanted to achieve

If you **let somebody down**, you disappoint that person because you do not do what you said/promised you would do, or what they expected you to do

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