

Lesson 12: Ambitions

Hi! Welcome to the Article Discussion lesson!

Today's topic is about "**Ambitions.**"

Have fun learning English!

Activity 1 | Vocabulary and Expressions

Directions: Listen and repeat.

Vocabulary

- **urge** – a strong desire, especially one that is difficult or impossible to control
- **resilience** – the ability to become strong, healthy, or successful again after something bad happens
- **hindrance** – a thing that provides resistance to someone
- **bigotry** – intolerance towards people with different opinions
- **avarice** – extreme greed for material things
- **ruthlessness** – to have no compassion; cruelty
- **prudent** – sensible, careful, wise

Activity 2 | Article

Directions: Read the article aloud with your teacher.

Ambitions

People have various ambitions throughout life, and the definition of the word largely depends on whom you ask. Generally speaking, ambition is a burning **urge** to achieve something. It is the inner force that propels people towards their cherished set of goals.

In the modern world, ambition is often held in high regard. Positive ambition is perceived as a driving force that helps people navigate through the labyrinth of obstacles. Mapping a plan for success in any aspect of life teaches **resilience**. Ambitious people find a way around their problems and overcome any **hindrances** that dare thwart their path towards the planned future.

However, ambition can also be associated with negative characteristics, such as **ruthlessness** and drive for power. It is believed to be the primary reason for **bigotry** and **avarice**. However, in reality, people choose their means themselves, and ambition does not inevitably mean choosing “the dark side.” Making decisions compliant with the rest of the world plays an important role in how ambition is perceived.

For any ambitious plans to come to fruition, **prudent** planning is mandatory. With the power of self-trust, hard work and perseverance, ambition that once seemed but a hollow dream is now possible to attain.

Activity 3 | Question and Answer

Directions: Answer these questions about the article.

1. How can we define ambition?
2. Why do you think ambition is highly regarded?
3. How do people use ambition to improve their lives?
4. Is ambition a positive or negative characteristic?
5. What is “the dark side” of ambition?

Activity 4 | Summary

Directions: Make a summary of this article, focusing on the main topic. After that, your teacher will give you an example of the summary.

Activity 5 | Thoughts

Directions: Read the following quote and share your thoughts with your teacher:

“Big results require big ambitions.”

1. Do you agree with the writer’s opinion? Why?
2. Which one do you think is more important for success, intelligence or ambition?
3. Can we achieve great things without being ambitious?

Activity 6 | Free Conversation

Directions: Answer these questions related to the topic of the article. Have a free conversation about it with your teacher.

1. Can you recall your first ambition?
2. What did you want to be when you were young?
3. How have your ambitions changed when you started university or job?
4. Have you reached your ambitions in life?
5. Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
6. Some people believe you can be ruined by ambition. What does this mean? Do you agree with it?
7. How do other people influence our ambitions? Did you have any experience with someone who tried to belittle your ambitions? How did you deal with it?
8. Can ambition be perceived as vice?
9. Is there an end to ambition?
10. "I would rather be a little nobody, than to be an evil somebody." How do you understand this quote? What is your opinion about it? How is it related to ambition?