

FAMOUS FAILURES ANSWERS

1. **Abraham Lincoln** was defeated in eight different elections. Yet he persisted and succeeded in becoming the 16th, and one of the most respected, presidents of the United States.
2. **Walt Disney** was told he had no talent and fired from a newspaper job. He wound up doing volunteer work for a church in an old, run-down garage. One day he decided to sketch one of the many mice that were running through the garage. This mouse became the famous "Mickey Mouse."
3. Twenty-three different publishers rejected **Dr. Seuss's** first book, while the 24th accepted and sold 6 million copies of it.
4. **Elvis Presley** was fired after his first performance at the Grand Ole Opry. The manager told him, "You ain't going nowhere, son. You ought to go back to driving a truck." He went on to become one of the most famous American singers of the 20th century.
5. **Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson** had hopes and dreams to be a professional football player and was not able to play for the NFL due to an injury in college football. Only two days into his professional football career playing for the Canadian Football League, he was kicked off the league and went back home in Florida with only seven dollars in his wallet. He pivoted and pursued a career in professional wrestling and is now also a famous actor and entrepreneur. In Dwayne Johnson's words, "Playing in the NFL was the best thing that never happened."
6. **J.K. Rowling**, author of the Harry Potter series, lived on welfare for years, in an apartment infested with mice, and was rejected by 12 publishers before going on to fame and fortune.
7. **Michael Jordan** was the athlete who was cut from the varsity basketball team in his sophomore year of high school. Angry and embarrassed, he began to get up early each morning to practice with the junior varsity coach. Eventually he not only made the varsity team, but also became one of the most popular athletes in the world. Michael Jordan is quoted as saying, "I have missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I have lost almost 300 games. On 26 occasions I have been entrusted to take the game winning shot, and I missed. I have failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."
8. **Thomas Edison** was the inventor who was kicked out of school. Following this, he was homeschooled by his mother. It took him over 700 tries before he got the filament right for the light bulb. Edison is quoted as saying: "I have not failed seven hundred times. I have not failed once. I have succeeded in proving that those seven hundred ways will not work. When I have eliminated the ways that will not work, I will find the way that will work."
9. **Elon Musk's** space exploration company, SpaceX, did not get off to a great start. The first three rocket launches exploded, and he estimated being only one launch away from running out of money. He persisted through and SpaceX is the first privately-owned company to not only launch a rocket into orbit, but also to send astronauts to space.
10. **Harland David Sanders** (better known as Colonel Sanders) had his fried chicken recipe rejected by more than 1,000 restaurant owners before it was accepted by one. Today, people still eat it at KFCs across the world.

