

DEALING WITH FAILURE

We are human beings, each subject to mistakes and failures that may come our way. It's part of our DNA. No one is perfect.

But what happens when we experience these occurrences or events in our lives? How do we deal with them? Do we allow them to rain on our parade – produce doom and gloom and detract us from our goals, our dreams?

Or do we use them as building blocks on our road to achievement, benefiting from the lessons learned? Our attitude, our determination, our character are revealed in large measure by how we respond to shortcomings and setbacks. Consider ...

- Ty Cobb was thrown out more times trying to steal bases than any other player in baseball history.
- Babe Ruth struck out more times than anyone before him in the annals of baseball.
- Hank Aaron, who broke Ruth's home run and strike out records, struck out more often than 99 percent of the players who make it to the major leagues.
- Enrico Caruso's voice failed to carry the high notes so many times his voice teacher advised him to quit. Caruso kept singing, and was recognized as the greatest tenor of his day.
- Thomas Edison's teacher called him a dunce, and he did fail more than 14,000 times in his efforts to perfect the incandescent light.
- Abraham Lincoln was well known for his lack of success, but is considered by many to be the greatest president this country has ever produced.
- Albert Einstein and Werner von Braun both flunked courses in math.
- Henry Ford was broke at age 40.
- Vince Lombardi became the most revered football coach since Knute Rockne, but at age 43, he was only a line coach at Fordham University.



Nobody, but nobody, considers these individuals failures, and few people even remember their failures. Virtually everyone remembers their successes.

To improve your self-image, learn from your failures. We all have them. It's what we do about them that matters.

– Beecher Hunter