Taking root and reaping rewards

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Tick the correct category for each word.

Word | Growth | Preparation | Outcome | Attitude

1 bear fruit [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
2 lay the foundation [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
3 persistent [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
4 come to fruition [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
5 long-term investment [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
6 blossom [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
7 determined [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
8 yield results [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

2 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 Her hard work finally bear fruit. _____
2 They laid foundation for future success. _____
3 She was very persistent about achieve her goal. _____
4 The plan came to fruit. _____
5 It was long-term of investment. _____
6 Her career blossom after the award. _____
7 He was determined for succeed. _____
8 The strategy yield good results. _____

3 Choose the more suitable description.

1 For a plan finally producing results: bear fruit / fail completely.
2 For establishing the basis for future success: lay the foundation / start from nothing.
3 For someone who keeps trying despite difficulty: persistent / easily discouraged.
4 For a plan that finally becomes reality: come to fruition / collapse.
5 For a strategy focused on future rather than immediate benefit: long-term investment / quick fix.
6 For a career developing very successfully: blossom / stagnate.

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4 Complete the profiles with words from the box.

bear fruit | blossom | come to fruition | determined | lay the foundation | long-term investment | persistent | yield results

Profile A: She spent years building relationships and skills to 1 _____ for her future career, treating every experience as a 2 _____.
Profile B: Despite setbacks, he remained 3 _____ and 4 _____ to succeed, refusing to give up.
Profile C: After years of quiet preparation, her plans finally began to 5 _____, and the effort started to 6 _____.
Profile D: What started as a small idea eventually 7 _____ into a thriving business, and her early strategies began to 8 _____.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

The patience behind success

Career researchers consistently find that meaningful achievement rarely happens quickly; it typically requires laying the foundation over months or years before visible results emerge. This delay can discourage people who expect immediate returns, leading some to abandon promising efforts just before they would have begun to bear fruit. Persistence through this early, invisible phase appears to distinguish those who eventually succeed from those who give up prematurely. Long-term investment, whether in skills, relationships or a business idea, often yields results only after a substantial period during which progress is difficult to measure.

1 What do career researchers consistently find about meaningful achievement? _____
2 What can this delay do to some people? _____
3 What might people abandon prematurely? _____
4 What appears to distinguish those who eventually succeed? _____
5 Give one example of long-term investment mentioned. _____
6 When does long-term investment often yield results? _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 Her hard work finally produced results. BEAR FRUIT _____
2 He kept trying despite many setbacks. PERSISTENT _____
3 The plan finally became a reality. FRUITION _____
4 Her career developed very successfully. BLOSSOM _____

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OVER TO YOU

Write a 100-120 word account of a long-term goal and the patience or persistence it required. Include specific stages and the eventual outcome.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include polite, precise wording. [ ] Organise the account clearly.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 Outcome 2 Preparation 3 Attitude 4 Outcome 5 Preparation 6 Growth 7 Attitude 8 Outcome

2 Corrections

1 finally bore fruit 2 laid the foundation 3 persistent about achieving her goal
4 came to fruition 5 a long-term investment 6 blossomed after the award
7 determined to succeed 8 yielded good results

3 Suitable descriptions

1 bear fruit 2 lay the foundation 3 persistent 4 come to fruition 5 long-term investment 6 blossom

4 Profiles

1 lay the foundation 2 long-term investment 3 persistent 4 determined 5 come to fruition
6 bear fruit 7 blossomed 8 yield results

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 That it rarely happens quickly; it typically requires laying the foundation over months or years.
2 Discourage people who expect immediate returns.
3 Promising efforts, just before they would have begun to bear fruit.
4 Persistence through the early, invisible phase.
5 Any one: skills, relationships, a business idea.
6 Only after a substantial period during which progress is difficult to measure.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 Her hard work finally bore fruit. 2 He remained persistent.
3 The plan finally came to fruition. 4 Her career blossomed.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check range, respectful register and clear organisation.