

# The cards are stacked against you

Idiom of the month

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## 1. Tick five things that YOU think are true about learning English.

- a. The pronunciation is difficult.
- b. Older people cannot learn English.
- c. It's hard to remember the grammar rules.
- d. Anyone can learn English.
- e. There are a lot of irregular verbs.
- f. You have to be a natural language learner to do well in English.
- e. It is easy to speak English.

## 2a. Read

I will never be good at English, Maya!

Why not, Billy?

The cards are stacked against me... I'm 45, I didn't study English at school and I'm just not a natural.

But people can always learn, Billy. You just have to practise.

**2b. Complete with the idiom of the month.**

You should never give up on your dream even when you think

\_\_\_\_\_.

***When the cards are stacked against you and there are a lot of reasons why you think you can't do something, remember that you can. Your brain is amazing and it can do anything- all you have to do is practise!***

**3. Think about a situation where the cards are stacked against you. Tell your partner about the situation. Look at the examples and then use the sentence prompts to help you.**

- a. I'm not good at maths because I don't understand it.
- b. I can't make new friends because I'm shy.

I CAN'T... BECAUSE...

I WANT TO ... BUT

I'M NOT GOOD AT...

I FEEL LIKE A FAILURE...BECAUSE...

**4. Now think about what you can do to CHANGE the situation. Look at the examples and then use the sentence prompts to help you.**

- a. I could ask a friend or relative to help me and do some practice activities every day.
- b. I could find a new hobby and meet people who share my interests.

I COULD/ MIGHT + INFINITIVE

I COULD/ MIGHT TRY + GERUND

**5. Copy this motto and read it every time you need encouragement.**

When the cards are stacked against you  
And you're feeling rather blue  
Remember who you really are  
And all the great things you can do.

## Teacher's Notes

1. Answers may vary.
2. You should never give up on your dream even when you think the cards are stacked against you.
3. Answers may vary.
4. Answers may vary.