

# The cards are stacked against you

Idiom of the month

a cura di Sarah Gudgeon

Edizioni novembre 2024

**1. List five more things that YOU find difficult about learning English. Compare your answers with a friend.**

- a. The pronunciation is difficult.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. \_\_\_\_\_

**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 in the past when the cards were stacked against you. Tell your partner about the situation. Consider these points:**

- Was it a new or recurring situation?
- Were you successful despite the fact that you faced many obstacles?
- What would you do differently if you found yourself in that situation again?

**4. Imagine that you have a friend who is down because they never get good marks in English. What advice would you give them to help them feel better about the situation?**

**Complete this message. Max 100 words.**

Hey buddy! I know it feels like the cards are stacked against you at the moment but.....

**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. Sample answers:
  - b. It's hard to remember the grammar rules.
  - c. There are a lot of irregular verbs.
  - d. Phrasal verbs are really difficult.
  - e. I'm not a natural language learner.
  - f. I don't get enough speaking practice.
2. You should never give up on your dream even when you think the cards are stacked against you.
3. Answers may vary.
4. Sample answer:

Hey buddy! I know it feels like the cards are stacked against you at the moment but you will get better in English. You should practise every day, even only for 15 minutes, and if you don't understand something, ask! If I were you, I would listen to podcasts- I'll send you some really cool ones later- and read a lot! Hope that helps.