

1 - Perseverance
Lesson Plan
(Ability level: elementary to pre-intermediate)

Grade level: Primary 1–2
Time: approximately 40 minutes

Suggested Activity 1: Draw a circle (approximately 10 minutes)

- Give each student a piece of blank paper
- Ask the class to try to draw a perfectly round circle within a minute; note that they have unlimited attempts
- Invite a few Ss to show their best work to the class; ask about the number of attempts they had until they achieved their best; highlight the message that not everyone would “get it” on the first try and that perseverance is key
- Ask the class to brainstorm ways to “improve” their circle (e.g., practising, using a ruler/ a pair of compasses/ a round object like a bottle cap or a pencil box)
- Introduce the idea that perseverance is just as much about finding new ways (“work smart”) to achieve the goal as it is about making an effort; relate it to the video (i.e., how Percy realised that waking up early for one night wouldn’t help achieve his goal and how he turned to other solutions)

Suggested Activity 2: Help out the teacher (approximately 15 minutes)

- Ask if any student in the class knows how to swim (T can use any personal perseverance stories here); ask how much time it took them to learn the skill
- Announce to the class that you have wanted to learn how to swim but have not managed it; explain to Ss why you failed (e.g., unable to hold your breath, afraid of water, tire easily)
- Ask Ss for suggestions as to how to start; if necessary, invite Ss who can swim to contribute to the discussion; write the “solutions” on the board (e.g., visit the pool to get used to the water, practise in the bathtub, get an instructor)
- Reinforce the idea that perseverance involves looking for improvements or new solutions
- Elicit encouraging messages (e.g., “What would you say to me if I want to give up?” “Don’t give up!”) from the class; remind Ss that some of the phrases are used in the video

Suggested Activity 3: Stories of perseverance (approximately 15 minutes)

- Distribute the worksheet (**Appendix A**) to the class
- Ask the class to interview a fellow classmate, teacher, family member, etc. for their “story of perseverance” and answer the simple questions on the worksheet as homework
- Demonstrate the task with an example (**see Appendix B**)

Appendix A

Stories of perseverance: "I failed. I tried again. I did it!"

Name: _____

1. **Who** did you talk to?

2. **What** was his/her goal?

3. **Why** did he/she fail?

4. **What** did he/she do differently to reach the goal?

Appendix B

Stories of perseverance: "I failed. I tried again. I did it!"

Name: _____

1. **Who** did you talk to?

Ms Wong

2. **What** was his/her goal?

To sleep early

3. **Why** did he/she fail?

She wanted to use her phone in the evening.

4. **What** did he/she do differently to reach the goal?

**She turned off her phone at 9pm.
She asked her family to take away her phone.**