

Success Takes Time

I was sitting in an introduction to calligraphy workshop when a fellow student asked the teacher, “What do I need to become an expert calligrapher?” We were all on the edge of our seats with that one. It was as if we were about to learn the secret ingredient to Grandma’s cookies.



The answer, to our surprise, was pen and paper.
“The materials are no different than those of a beginner calligrapher,” the teacher explained.
The difference between a beginner and expert calligrapher is not in the tools they use, but rather in the expert’s commitment to practice and the time they took to learn and do something.

The same goes for any expert at their craft (技能).
When we look up to the expert, we assume (认为) that increasing the quality of materials or having nicer resources is what makes them great. This assumption doesn’t take into consideration the time it would have taken them to learn something new and to achieve their goals.
Instead, we want to cut corners, looking for a shortcut. We want to make progress as soon as possible. But it is not a strategy that necessarily benefits us.

My current goal is to become an independent filmmaker. What would it take, what would I need to make the best movies? I too, wanted the shortcut. The direct way to achieve my goal. Is there a certain camera I need to have, light kit (工具箱), microphone or skill that would lead me right to success? After watching online videos about filmmaking, I realized I had all that I needed to achieve my goal. There was no shortcut to filmmaking. It was just going to take time.

It’s easy to get caught in wasting time looking for a solution (解决办法) instead of taking time. In the end we lose energy and motivation looking for the right tools or answers.

We do things to go fast rather than far. We focus on the end result instead of allowing ourselves to enjoy the journey. Go far. Reach farther. Take the time to become your best self.

Word bank

1. calligraphy /kə'liɡrəfi/ n. 书法； calligrapher /kə'liɡrəfə(r)/ n. 书法家
2. ingredient /ɪn'ɡriːdiənt/ n. 烹饪材料
3. commitment /kə'mɪtmənt/ n. the desire to work hard 奉献，投入
4. resource n. /rɪ'sɔːrs/ 资源
5. current adj. happening now; of the present time 现时发生的；当前的；现在的
6. motivation /ˌməʊti'veɪʃn/ n. 动机

Before Reading

| Topic | Success Takes Time |
|-------------|---------------------|
| K | W |
| What I know | What I want to know |
| ● ... | ● ... |

While Reading

| Parts | | Key information | Details |
|-------|-----------------------|--|--|
| 1 | Introduce the topic | A lesson from the c_____ workshop | The key to becoming an e_____ calligrapher was pen and paper---the c_____ to practice and the t_____ spent on it. |
| 2 | Propose (提议) the view | The lesson generalized (类推到) to other fields | ● What make people great is not increasing the q_____ of materials or having nicer r_____ but the time they have spent achieving their g_____. ● Cutting c_____ or looking for a shortcut does not necessarily b_____ us. |
| 3 | Support the view | My own e_____ | There was no s_____ to achieving my goal to becoming an independent f_____. It was just going to take t_____. |
| 4 | Draw a conclusion | Conclusion | We should ● Go f_____ rather than fast; ● Focus on the j_____ instead of the end result; ● Take the time to be our best s_____. |

After Reading

| Topic | Success Takes Time |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| L | S |
| What I have learned | Share what I have learned |
| ● ... | ● ... |