

College admissions gone wild

<https://screen.yahoo.com/college-admissions-gone-wild-163245880.html>

Task 1 – Taking notes while listening

Watch the video. Take notes as you listen. Focus on the questions the interviewer asks and on the advice Deena V. gives to those who are about to start a new enterprise.

Proficiency level: **B2 and above**

With the help of this short video, you will practice:

Active listening & note-taking

Spoken expressions to make your English fluent

Opposites

Task 2 – Checking understanding

Decide whether the following statements are true (T), false (F) or impossible to decide (I) based on the video.

- According to Frank Bruni, your resilience has less to do with your future success than whether or not you get into a prestigious university.
- College applications have gone out of hand because we have become a brand-obsessed society.
- Whether or not you go to an ivy league school affects your future success.
- Colleges seek out applicants so that they can reject more people.
- Universities and colleges use marketing strategies to convince students and parents that they are the best.
- The US News and World Report rankings of higher education establishments are the most reliable source of information about universities.

Task 3 – Correct me if I'm wrong...

Watch the video again if necessary and correct the false statements above.

Task 4 – Language Work: Opposites

Find the opposite of the following words in the video.

- reject (verb) < - >
- rejection (noun) < - >
- unambitious (adjective) < - >
- deter, repulse (verb) < - >
- disapproval (noun) < - >

GOOD TO KNOW

U.S. News & World Report is an American media company that publishes news, opinion, consumer advice, rankings, and analysis. Founded as a news weekly magazine in 1933, U.S. News transitioned to primarily web-based publishing in 2010. (Wikipedia)

Task 5 – Language Work: Vocabulary building

Fill in the gaps using words and expressions from the video.

- 1 The rejection did not surprise me, I kind of saw it
- 2 When Sarah found out she was rejected, she really took it to, she was very disappointed.
- 3 Your resilience, the way youfrom rejection, has a lot more to do with your success than the rejection itself.
- 4 In recent years things have gotten out of control when itto college applications.
- 5 Ita lot about you if you manage to get into an Ivy League school with a 5% acceptance rate.
- 6 Nowadays parents believe that their kids have a better chance of ending up among the (i.e., people with money) if they attend an Ivy League school.

Task 6 – Spoken expressions

Use your notes and/or watch the interview again and match the expressions (in italics) to their meaning in the box.

information/actions to attract someone – disappoint – get back on your feet after something bad happens – learn about something – if we cast a wider net, we have better possibilities of finding what we want

The more darts I throw at the board, the better chance that one will hit the bull's-eye.

They got an avalanche of *come-ons* from universities.

How you *rebound from* rejection says a lot about your character.

When I was rejected from my dream college, I felt like I had *let myself down*.

It has come to my attention that you have been rejected.

ANSWER KEY

Task 2

F, T, I, T, T, F

Task 3

According to Frank Bruni, your resilience has MORE to do with your future success than whether or not you get into a prestigious university.

Whether or not you go to an ivy league school affects your future success. – People tend to think that this is the case, but it is impossible to make a clear statement about this because success depends on so many different factors.

According to Frank Bruni, the US News and World Report rankings of higher education establishments are NOT the most reliable source of information about universities despite their popularity.

Task 4 accept, acceptance, competitive, attract, popularity (or: approval)

Task 5 coming, heart, rebound, comes, says, have

Task 6

The more darts I throw at the board, the better chance that one will hit the bull's-eye. = if we cast a wider net, we have better possibilities of finding what we want

come-ons = information/actions to attract someone

rebound from = get back on your feet after something bad happens

let myself down = disappoint

It has come to my attention that... = I learned about ...