

So you think you're the only one that failed at something? Think again. Here are some people who failed at what they had their heart set upon.

**Henry Ford:** His early businesses failed and left him broke five times before he founded the successful Ford Motor Company.

**R. H. Macy:** Macy started seven failed business before finally hitting big with his store in New York City.

**Harland David Sanders:** Perhaps better known as Colonel Sanders of Kentucky Fried Chicken fame, Sanders had a hard time selling his chicken at first. In fact, his famous secret chicken recipe was rejected 1,009 times before a restaurant accepted it.

**Thomas Edison:** In his early years, teachers told Edison he was "too stupid to learn anything." Work was no better, as he was fired from his first two jobs for not being productive enough. Even as an inventor, Edison made 1,000 unsuccessful attempts at inventing the light bulb. Of course, all those unsuccessful attempts finally resulted in the design that worked.

**Winston Churchill:** This Nobel Prize-winning, twice-elected Prime Minister of the United Kingdom wasn't always as well regarded as he is today. Churchill struggled in school and failed the sixth grade. After school he faced many years of political failures, as he was defeated in every election for public office until he finally became the Prime Minister at the ripe old age of 62.

**Jerry Seinfeld:** Just about everybody knows who Seinfeld is, but the first time the young comedian walked on stage at a comedy club, he looked out at the audience, froze and was eventually jeered and booed off of the stage. Seinfeld knew he could do it, so he went back the next night, completed his set to laughter and applause, and the rest is history.

**Vincent Van Gogh:** During his lifetime, Van Gogh sold only one painting, and this was to a friend and only for a very small amount of money. While Van Gogh was never a success during his life, he plugged on with painting, sometimes starving to complete his over 800 known works. Today, they bring in hundreds of millions.

**J. K. Rowling:** Rowling may be rolling in a lot of Harry Potter dough today, but before she published the series of novels she was nearly penniless, severely depressed, divorced, trying to raise a child on her own while attending school and writing a novel. Rowling went from depending on welfare to survive to being one of the richest women in the world in a span of only five years through her hard work and determination.

**The Beatles:** When they were just starting out, a recording company told them no. They were told "we don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out," two things the rest of the world couldn't have disagreed with more.

**Oprah Winfrey:** Oprah faced a hard road to get to that position, however, enduring a rough and often abusive childhood as well as numerous career setbacks including being fired from her job as a television reporter because she was "unfit for tv."

<http://www.onlinecollege.org/2010/02/16/50-famously-successful-people-who-failed-at-first/>