

Short Story: 20 Out of 20

Intermediate Level (A2-B1), with Vocabulary for Talking about Results

I'm a bright student but I don't work hard, my teachers often say. I don't actually care. It's not as if I will be looking for a job tomorrow.

I like having fun and the funny thing is I get good scores all the time even when I haven't studied. They are baffled, those pessimistic teachers. They say, you can't pull off this all the time. Things will get trickier as you advance in your studies.

Easy-peasy, that's all cheesy. I'm lazy, not crazy. I know what I'm made of. I'm a natural-born genius and I'll always triumph, whatever comes my way. I ace the lousy tests all the time. Actually, I got 16 out of 20 in my Maths test last week, and I didn't even freakin' study! My grade wasn't the best in the class but I came third. Imagine if I studied like Harry, the bookworm who is always in a hurry. Teachers would have to create a special marking system just for me. I'm not kidding.

Well, if you are a genius, you should get 20 out of 20 all the time, my Maths teacher told me when he saw the triumphant joy on my face. Will (My name is William but everybody calls me Will because I have an iron will, ha, ha, ha ...HA, well, you know what I mean), Will, next time I want you to get twenty out of **twentee**. Alright?"

No ways, did he mean that? That's a tall order to ask me to do something whose outcome I can't control! Whoever gets a 20 out of 20 all the time? Nobody and you know why? It's because the teachers decide what to give to students. If everybody got 20 out of 20, then our teachers wouldn't have anyone to teach and they would all lose their jobs. They need to point out our imperfections so that they can pretend to correct them.

Sometimes I even think that they pick out numbers randomly. Oh, Harry is a nice boy. Let me give him an 18. He deserves to have excellent results. What about Will? Well, Will is as naughty as hell, even though he is bright (sigh, sigh), well, Will will get a 13 out of 20. He is a natural-born **FAILURE** and poor results are all that he will ever get.

Adjectives for Describing Results

			
Good Fair Lovely Encouraging Pleasing Desired Acceptable Normal Correct Gratifying Satisfying Consistent Objective	Poor Unfair Ugly Disappointing Displeasing Undesired Unacceptable Abnormal Incorrect Unpalatable Unsatisfying Inconsistent Subjective	Excellent ★ Amazing Wonderful Astonishing Exceptional ★ Terrific Brilliant Extraordinary Outstanding ★ Flawless Exemplary Remarkable Stellar	Mediocre Appalling Dreadful Shocking Average Frightful Lacklustre Pitiful Pathetic Substandard Dishonourable Unremarkable Lousy

That's far from the truth, of course. You know, I told you I'm a bright student, a stellar student as a matter of fact. I shine and outshine everyone in our class even when I don't study as seriously as all those picky teachers would want me to. My results are outstanding. My success has no bounds. The sky is no limit. However, as intelligent as I am, I know when I can win a battle and this looks like I have lost it in advance. My Maths teacher has all the cards in his hands. Unfortunately.

Well, wait a minute. Maybe not. Maybe I can actually show all my teachers that I can get a twenty out of twenty eeee in their subjects at least once in my lifetime. Then they will know that I mean serious business.

When I want something I get it. This is not a sink or swim situation for me. It's actually a swim or sprint situation. I will swim across all rivers, lakes, oceans and seas until I get brilliant results. They don't call me **Will** for nothing. I will show them my mettle. My name is Will. I'm a fighter and I WILL win this battle.

Here is my carefully elaborated strategy. Here we go!

Rule Nº 1: I will be like a sponge and my teachers' words and knowledge will be like honey. Nothing will ever escape my ears again.

Rule Nº 2: I will be like a reporter and the teachers' explanations will be under close scrutiny. Nothing will ever escape my comprehension again.

Rule Nº 3: I will be like a monk from Nepal and Netflix and his friends will be consumed with extreme moderation. Nothing will ever distract me again from my goal of getting a 20 out of 20.

Rule Nº 4: I will be like Harry the bookworm who is always in a hurry and books will become my new buddies. Nothing will ever ruin our new friendship, even YouTube, the double tees (Twitter and TikTok!!!) and not forgetting Instagram. I'm serious.

Rule Nº 5: I will be consistent like a clock and routines will become my thing. Nothing will disturb my habits and I will stick to them like glue stick.

5 straight points. 5 straight points that will lead me to a sweet landslide victory. My name is Will and I WILL win. Where there is a will there is a way.

What if I lose?

It doesn't matter. It's the journey that counts. I will walk the talk, stop the jokes and work around the clock. I will rise to the occasion in leaps and bounds and the excellent grades will follow. I will finally get a twenty out of twenty EEEE in **ALL** subjects. I just can't wait 😊😊😊.



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