



American Expression E2523 Make it big

IOTS Publishing Team
International Online Teachers Society
Since 2011

To make it big is an expression that conveys the idea of achieving significant success, recognition, or prosperity, often beyond what was originally expected. The phrase is commonly used in reference to careers in entertainment, business, sports, or other fields where visibility and acclaim are tangible markers of achievement. It is not simply about doing well but about reaching a level of accomplishment that sets someone apart from the average, lifting them into a position of prominence and respect. People who “make it big” are often those whose names or work become widely known and who are rewarded with financial gain, influence, or prestige.

The phrase carries with it the sense of breakthrough. To make it big suggests moving from obscurity into the spotlight, from small beginnings into large impact. For example, a local musician may perform in small cafés for years, but if they are suddenly recognized by a national audience and begin selling out concerts, it is said that they have made it big. The same can be applied to entrepreneurs who start with modest resources and then expand their companies into thriving enterprises. This journey implies growth, resilience, and the ability to seize opportunities.

At the heart of making it big lies ambition and perseverance. Most people who are recognized as having achieved this status did not stumble upon it accidentally. They often dedicated years to their craft, worked through rejection, and faced numerous obstacles before finding success. The phrase therefore honors not only the outcome but also the effort behind it. It reflects the narrative that big rewards follow big risks, and that consistent dedication can eventually push someone from the margins to the center stage of their field.

Another aspect of making it big is that it often involves recognition from others. Success is not only measured by personal satisfaction but also by external validation, such as financial prosperity, awards, media coverage, or public admiration. This social recognition is part of what distinguishes simply doing well from truly making it big. When people use the phrase, they usually imply that the achievement is visible and undeniable, something that others can clearly recognize and celebrate.

However, making it big can also bring challenges. With fame or significant success come responsibilities, pressures, and expectations. The journey to this point may be difficult, but maintaining one’s position can be equally demanding. Individuals who make it big may face scrutiny, competition, or the burden of living up to their reputation. This shows that while the phrase carries a positive and aspirational tone, it also comes with a reminder that such levels of success are not without cost.

Culturally, the idea of making it big resonates because it aligns with the human desire for achievement and recognition. Stories of people who rose from humble beginnings to become highly successful inspire audiences and reinforce the value of ambition, hard work, and persistence. It is a phrase that encapsulates the dreams of many who strive for something beyond the ordinary, serving as a motivating reminder that extraordinary results are possible.

In conclusion, to make it big is to move beyond modest success into a realm of remarkable achievement and recognition. It captures the essence of breaking barriers, rising from small origins, and becoming someone of wide influence or prosperity. Though it carries with it challenges and responsibilities, the phrase continues to embody the pursuit of excellence and the triumph of ambition fulfilled. It represents not only the outcome of success but also the compelling story of the journey that made it possible.

Questions for Discussion

1. What qualities or habits do you think are most important for someone who wants to make it big in their chosen field?
2. Do you believe making it big is more about talent, hard work, or being in the right place at the right time?
3. How can someone balance the desire to make it big with the risk of losing personal values or well-being?
4. In what ways might making it big bring unexpected challenges or difficulties that people do not anticipate?
5. Do you think making it big always requires public recognition, or can someone make it big in more private or personal ways?