

## Anglais B2 : vocabulaire de l'échec (nuances)

### 0) À retenir en 10 secondes

- **failure** = échec (nom) ; **to fail** = échouer (verbe).
- **mistake** = erreur ; **fault** = faute/responsabilité ; **error** = erreur (plus "technique").
- **setback** = contretemps (recul temporaire) ; **flop** = échec "public" (informel).
- **to mess up** = se rater (informel) ; **to fall short** = ne pas être à la hauteur.

### 1) Noms : types d'échec

Mot	Nuance	Exemple
<b>failure</b>	échec (général)	*Failure is part of learning.*
<b>a fail</b> (informel)	un "fail"	*That was a total fail.*
<b>setback</b>	revers/contretemps (temporaire)	*We had a small setback.*
<b>defeat</b>	défaite (compétition)	*A narrow defeat.*
<b>loss</b>	perte (match, business)	*Their first loss of the season.*
<b>flop</b> (informel)	flop (succès public raté)	*The show was a flop.*
<b>disaster</b>	catastrophe (très fort)	*The launch was a disaster.*
<b>fiasco</b> (B2)	fiasco (mauvaise organisation, ridicule)	*It turned into a fiasco.*

### 2) Verbes : échouer / rater / ne pas réussir

Verbe	Nuance	Exemple
<b>to fail</b>	échouer (ne pas réussir)	*I failed the exam.*
<b>to fail to + V</b>	ne pas réussir à / ne pas faire	*He failed to reply.*
<b>to miss</b>	rater (bus, deadline, occasion)	*I missed the deadline.*
<b>to mess up</b> (informel)	se planter / mal faire	*I messed up the presentation.*
<b>to screw up</b> (plus familier)	se planter (plus cru)	*I screwed up.*
<b>to fall short</b>	être en dessous des attentes	*The result fell short of our goals.*
<b>to backfire</b>	se retourner contre soi	*My joke backfired.*
<b>to collapse</b>	s'effondrer (plan/projet)	*The deal collapsed.*

### 3) Causes : erreurs, mauvaises décisions, négligence

Mot	Nuance	Exemple
<b>mistake</b>	erreur (courant)	*I made a mistake.*
<b>error</b>	erreur (technique/formel)	*There was an error in the report.*
<b>fault</b>	faute/responsabilité	*It wasn't my fault.*
<b>blunder</b> (B2)	grosse bourde	*A major blunder.*
<b>misjudgment</b> (B2)	mauvaise évaluation	*It was a misjudgment.*
<b>negligence</b> (B2)	négligence (pro/légal)	*gross negligence*

### 4) Échec "partiel" / résultat insuffisant

Mot	Nuance	Exemple
<b>unsuccessful</b>	non concluant (neutre)	*The attempt was unsuccessful.*
<b>ineffective</b>	inefficace	*The strategy was ineffective.*
<b>not enough</b>	insuffisant (simple)	*It wasn't enough.*
<b>inadequate</b> (B2)	inadéquat/insuffisant (formel)	*Inadequate preparation.*
<b>subpar</b> (B2, plutôt US)	en dessous du niveau	*The service was subpar.*

### 5) Expressions B2 très naturelles

- **I didn't make it.** = je n'ai pas réussi.
- **I blew it.** (informel) = j'ai tout gâché.
- **It didn't work out.** = ça n'a pas marché.
- **We hit a dead end.** = on est dans une impasse.
- **We missed the mark.** = on est passé à côté.
- **It was a learning experience.** = expérience formatrice.

### 6) Collocations utiles

- **fail an exam / fail to do something**
- **make a mistake / commit an error**
- **a major/minor setback**
- **a costly mistake**
- **a complete/total failure**
- **fall short of expectations**
- **backfire badly**
- **recover from a setback**

## 7) Pièges & nuances

- **to fail** = échouer (test/exam) ; mais aussi \*fail to do\* = ne pas faire (ex: \*failed to respond\*).
  - **failure** (nom) ≠ **fault** (responsabilité).
  - **defeat** = défaite (contre un adversaire), pas "échec" général.
  - **unsuccessful** est neutre et souvent plus poli que **a failure**.
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## 8) Mini-exercice (choisis le mot le plus naturel)

Complète avec : **failure / setback / flop / fiasco / fail / miss / mess up / fall short / backfire / blunder / misjudgment / inadequate**

1. The project wasn't a total ; we learned a lot.
2. We had a small but we're back on track.
3. The film was a box-office .
4. The event turned into a complete (badly organised).
5. I'm afraid I might the exam.
6. I the deadline by two days.
7. I really my speech (informal).
8. The result of our expectations.
9. His comments and made things worse.
10. That was a huge — everyone noticed.
11. Hiring him was a .
12. Our preparation was .

### Corrigé (proposition)

1. failure
2. setback
3. flop
4. fiasco
5. fail
6. missed
7. messed up
8. fell short
9. backfired
10. blunder
11. misjudgment
12. inadequate

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