

A1 Most of the ^{us} ~~students~~ fail in our efforts at self-improvement because our plans ^{seem} ~~seems~~ too ambitious and we do not have enough time to implement them. Moreover, the repeated frustration from past failures makes us believe that success is beyond our reach, which leads to lack of persistence and eventually failure.

A2 It is a basic mistake to announce our resolution to everybody because when we fail to stick to it, we appear foolish in front of others. Publicly declaring our resolutions adds unnecessary pressure and makes our failures more noticeable and embarrassing.

A3 The writer did not carry out his resolution on New Year's Day because he attended an over-night party on New Year's Eve, which provided him a good excuse to skip his planned activities on the first day of the year.

A4 Intimidating — Formidable
Peril — Pitfall
Dimindle — Diminish
Repel — Fend off
Barb — Jibe

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