DAY 2
UNIT 1 (CONT)

Reading 2

READ

1 Look at the boldfaced words in the reading and think about the questions.

1. Which words do you know the meanings of?

2. Can you use any of the words or phrases in a sentence?

2 Read the article about Malcolm Gladwell's book, *Outliers: The Story of Success.* As you read, notice the boldfaced vocabulary. Try to guess the meaning of the words from the context.

10,000 HOURS TO MASTERY

by **Harvey Mackay**

1   For years, I have preached the importance of hard work, determination, **persistence**, and practice—make that perfect practice—as key ingredients of success. A nifty new book seems to support my theory.

2   Malcolm Gladwell has written a fascinating study, *Outliers: The Story of Success* (Little, Brown & Co.), which should make a lot of people feel much better about not achieving instant success. In fact, he says it takes about 10 years, or 10,000 hours, of practice to attain true **expertise**.

3   "The people at the very top don't just work harder or even much harder than everyone else," Gladwell writes. "They work much, much harder." Achievement, he says, is talent plus preparation. Preparation seems to play a bigger role.

4   For example, he describes the Beatles: They had been together seven years before their famous arrival in America. They spent a lot of time playing in strip clubs in Hamburg, Germany, sometimes for as long as eight hours a night. Overnight sensation? Not exactly. Estimates are the band performed 1,200 times before their big success in 1964. By comparison, most bands don't perform 1,200 times in their careers.

5 Neurologist Daniel Levitin has studied the formula for success extensively and shares this finding: "The **emerging** picture from such studies is that 10,000 hours of practice is required to achieve the level of mastery associated with being a world-class expert in anything. In study after study of composers, basketball players, fiction writers, ice skaters, concert pianists, chess players, master criminals, and what have you, the number comes up again and again. Of course, this doesn't address why some people get more out of their practice sessions than others do. But no one has yet found a case in which true world-class expertise was accomplished in less time. It seems it takes the brain this long to **assimilate** all that it needs to know to achieve true mastery."

The Beatles

6 Two computer giants, Bill Joy, who co-founded Sun Microsystems, and Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft, also were proof of the 10,000-hour theory.

7 As Gladwell puts it, "Practice isn't the thing you do once you're good. It's the thing you do that makes you good."

8 Consider these thoughts from successful folks in all walks of life:

9 • "No one can arrive from being talented alone. God gives talent; work **transforms** talent into genius."—Anna Pavlova, ballerina.

10 • "I know the price of success: dedication, hard work and an unremitting devotion to the things you want to see happen."—Frank Lloyd Wright, architect.

11 • "The way to learn to do things is to do things. The way to learn a trade is to work at it. Success teaches how to succeed. Begin with the determination to succeed, and the work is half done already." —Mark Twain, writer and humorist.

12 Do you detect a theme here?

13 The abilities these people possessed were far-ranging, yet the formula for success was the same: hard work and lots of it. I don't know anyone who has succeeded any other way. Some people just make it look easy. Of course, you probably didn't see the first 9,999 hours of hard work. And you don't just have to work hard; you have to work smart, too.

14 **Mackay's Moral:** Some people dream about success, and others wake up and do something about it.

1. persistence (n) sự kiên trì

2. expertise (n) chuyên môn

3. emerging (n) nổi bật lên

4. assimilate (v) đồng hóa

5. transforms (v) chuyển, biến đổi

6. Mackay's Moral s

COMPREHENSION

Work with a partner. Complete each statement according to information in the article.

1. According to Gladwell, achievement is _____
   _____.

2. The Beatles were different from most other bands because _____
   _____.

3. Daniel Levitin says about success that _____
   _____.

4. Levitin believes success takes so long to achieve because _____
   _____.