

## Speech 02: Steve Jobs - Stanford Commencement Address (Part2) -

### Practice 1 | Vocabulary

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**Directions:** Listen and repeat.

- **vision** - an idea or a picture in your imagination
- **diverge** - to be or become different from what is expected, planned, etc.
- **devastating** - causing a lot of damage and destruction
- **entrepreneurs** - a person who makes money by starting or running businesses, especially when this involves taking financial risks
- **baton** - a short stick or staff or something resembling one, in particular
- **screwing** - messing up
- **heaviness** - the state or quality of being heavy in its various senses, sluggishness, sadness
- **freed** - not under the control or in the power of someone else; able to do what you want
- **creative** involving the use of skill and the imagination to produce something new or a work of art
- **animation** - the process of making movies, videos, and computer games in which drawings or models of people and animals seem to move
- **remarkable** unusual or surprising in a way that causes people to take notice
- **renaissance** - situation when there is new interest in a particular subject, form of art
- **awful-tasting** - taste bad, exceptionally bad or unpleasing taste
- **settle** - to decide or arrange something finally.

## Practice 2 | Speech

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**Directions:** Read the speech aloud with your teacher.

*This is a prepared text of the commencement address delivered by **Steve Jobs**, CEO of Apple Computer and of Pixar Animation Studios, on 12 June, 2005. (Part 2)*

My second story is about love and loss.

I was lucky – I found what I loved to do early in life. Woz [Steve Wozniak] and I started Apple in my parents' garage when I was 20. We worked hard, and in 10 years Apple had grown from just the two of us in a garage into a \$2bn company with over 4,000 employees. We had just released our finest creation – the Macintosh – a year earlier, and I had just turned 30. And then I got fired. How can you get fired from a company you started? Well, as Apple grew we hired someone who I thought was very talented to run the company with me and for the first year or so things went well. But then our **visions** of the future began to **diverge** and eventually we had a falling-out. When we did, our board of directors sided with him. So at 30 I was out. And very publicly out. What had been the focus of my entire adult life was gone, and it was **devastating**.

I really didn't know what to do for a few months. I felt that I had let the previous generation of **entrepreneurs** down – that I had dropped the **baton** as it was being passed to me. I met with David Packard and Bob Noyce and tried to apologize for **screwing** up so badly. I was a very public failure, and I even thought about running away from the valley. But something slowly began to dawn on me – I still loved what I did. The turn of events at Apple had not changed that one bit. I had been rejected, but I was still in love. And so I decided to start over. I didn't see it then, but it turned out that getting fired from Apple was the best thing that could have ever happened to me. The **heaviness** of being successful was replaced by the lightness of being a beginner again, less sure about everything. It **freed** me to enter one of the most **creative** periods of my life.

During the next five years, I started a company named NeXT, another company named Pixar, and fell in love with an amazing woman who would become my wife. Pixar went on to create the world's first computer-animated feature film, *Toy Story*, and is now the most successful **animation** studio in the world. In a **remarkable** turn of events, Apple bought NeXT, I returned to Apple, and the technology we developed at NeXT is at the heart of Apple's current **renaissance**. And Laurene and I have a wonderful family together.

I'm pretty sure none of this would have happened if I hadn't been fired from Apple. It was **awful-tasting** medicine, but I guess the patient needed it. Sometimes life hits you in the head with a brick. Don't lose faith. I'm convinced that the only thing that kept me going was that I loved what I did. You've got to find what you love. And that is as true for your work as it is for your lovers. Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't **settle**. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it. And, like any great relationship, it just gets better and better as the years roll on. So keep looking until you find it. Don't settle.

## Practice 3 | Questions

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**Directions:** Answer the following questions.

1. How did Steve Jobs start the Apple?
2. Why was he fired from the company that he started?
3. How did he stand up from the devastating experience?
4. What did he mean by “sometimes, life hits you in the head with a brick”?
5. Have you had a similar devastating experience in your life like that of Steve Jobs?