



Purposing to accomplish right goals at the right time, regardless of the opposition

Determination means not giving up, and keeping ongoing. It means that you set a goal for yourself, and put a deadline, i.e. a specified time within which to finish it. When you are determined, you limit your attention to other things and focus on achieving your goal. It helps you to avoid distractions and remain faithful to the task until it is completed.

For example if you want to become a good striker in football, that is your goal. Then you give yourself for example up to the end of this year.

So after class, on weekends and during holidays, whenever you have time to play, you will focus on football and particularly striking.

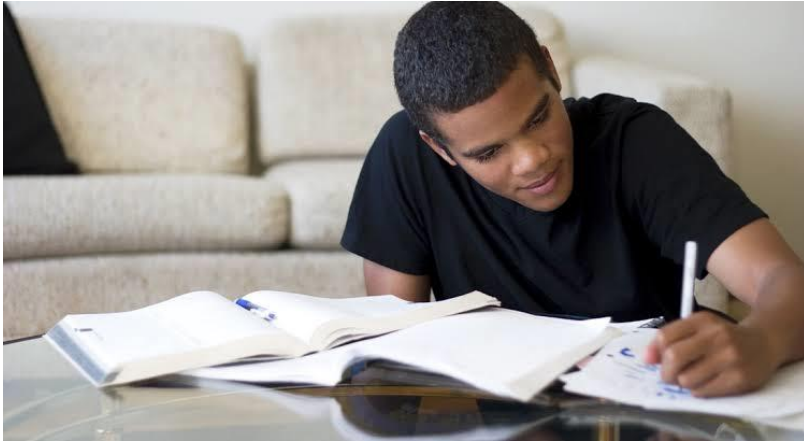
So, you will limit your attention away from other games like basketball, volleyball, table tennis, e.t.c.



Even when you want to spend your time more passively, you will look at may be watching football matches, playing PS, and reading up information about greatest strikers and how they made it. As you enjoy watching the matches or playing PS or reading-up, you will focus on key skills like dribbling, speed, concentration, ball control, reading your opponent, and many others. So, that will help you to avoid distractions and remain faithful to the task of becoming a good striker.

You can replace the goal of becoming a good football striker in the above example with any other personal goals such as excelling at school, becoming good at public speaking, becoming a leader, a doctor, a lawyer, business person, engineer, journalist, etc. What is important is that the goal you set should be right. Things that are illegal, immoral, and harmful are not worth setting as goals in your life.

What if I meet obstacles on my way?



Determination is really a choice, the choice to press on despite what obstacles appear. Obstacles will come. Their appearance in your life should come as no surprise.

Even the law of nature warns that “for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction.”

Any forward movement will meet with some measure of resistance from different things

or people. Learn that determination is merely the power to overcome any obstacle or any resistance.

When a successful mountain climber was asked how he climbed such difficult ranges, he responded; “By putting one foot ahead of the other.” Indeed, determination puts one foot in front of the next to keep going, no matter how tired, frustrated, or discouraged you may feel. Determination makes it possible to climb even the highest mountain.

Determination or Disobedience?

Imagine your dad, mum, or any other driver driving down a road and a large box falls off a truck ahead, obstructing your way. Does the driver turn around because of the box and go back home? Of course not. Most drivers have more determination than that. A determined driver either removes the box, or goes around it.

But what if a driver comes to a red traffic signal, or is stopped by a policeman? Does a determined driver continue past the red light or past the policeman? Of course not. Running a red light or driving past a policeman who has stopped you is disobedience, not determination.

While these examples may seem trivial, some people literally let “nothing get in their way,” including the directions and guidelines of authorities. Such character is not determination, but disobedience.

ASSIGNMENT: Think of an example you experienced at home, or at school. Decide whether it showed determination or disobedience

Application:

There are two parts to determination: *setting* goals and *reaching* goals. So you have two steps;

- 1) Plan what you want to accomplish this year
- 2) Develop the resolve to do it.

I will set the goals before me
That I know for sure are right.
I'll ignore the things distracting me
And keep my goals in sight.

I will take hold of every problem,
And despite what others say,
I will move ahead with courage,
And will never turn away.

To live a life of character,
Commitment is key.
When things get tough, I will prove to you
That you can count on me!

Bravo!! You are a determined person

If you have done at least three (3) of the following at home during this Corona Virus lockdown, then you are a determined person. Congratulations!!



- Finishing all of your assignments
- Learning new skills
- Studying subjects you don't enjoy but which are compulsory
- Not being distracted by others
- Resisting pressure to do wrong