Progress: Answer Key

A. Word forms

1. progressing
2. progressive
3. progressively
4. progression
5. setback
6. stagnation
7. regress / decline / deteriorate

B. Collocations and patterns

1. c) made
2. d) track
3. b) hampered
4. c) rapid
5. b) headway
6. c) in
7. d) on
8. b) to
9. c) beyond
10. d) report

D. Error correction

1. a. Progress is uncountable, so it has no plural.
2. b. Do not use a or an with progress. Say some progress or a lot of progress.
3. a. The fixed phrase is in progress.
4. a. A process is a series of steps. Progress is how far you have moved.
5. b. Use the adverb progressively before an adjective such as worse.
6. b. Headway goes with make, not do.
7. a. Use toward (or towards) for a goal you are moving closer to.
8. b. Come a long way means improve a lot. Go a long way means travel far or help a lot.

C. Forward or stuck?

1. F
2. S
3. F
4. S
5. F
6. S
7. F
8. S

E. Match

1. B (not get anywhere)
2. G (hit a plateau)
3. D (get something off the ground)
4. H (take baby steps)
5. F (be on the right track)
6. C (gain ground)
7. E (make strides)
8. A (break new ground)

Notes on the evidence and corrections

- Amabile and Kramer: the diary study covered 238 professionals in 26 project teams at seven companies in three industries, with nearly 12,000 daily entries (The Progress Principle, Harvard Business Review Press, 2011; HBR article “The Power of Small Wins,” May 2011). It is observational, so the reading presents it as a pattern, not proof of cause. Kramer is described as a developmental psychologist in several sources.
- Kivetz, Urminsky and Zheng (Journal of Marketing Research, 2006, vol. 43, no. 1): customers at a Columbia University café with a 12-stamp card and two bonus stamps completed ten purchases in a median of 10 days, versus 15 days with a regular 10-stamp card. The reading calls it a field experiment, as the authors do.
- Condorcet wrote the Sketch in 1794 while hiding after an arrest warrant in October 1793; it was published in 1795 after his death in prison in 1794. “Often described as one of the best-known statements” is hedged because the strongest claims about its influence on Wikipedia are uncited.
- Mahbub ul Haq launched the first Human Development Report in 1990 with Amartya Sen’s involvement; some sources describe the index as co-created, others credit Haq with Sen’s help. The reading says “working with.” Quotations: Shaw’s wording follows the book (semicolon version); King’s line is from the Letter from Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963; Gould’s line is from his interview chapter in The Third Culture (1995), as reproduced on Edge.
- Corrections to the source document: removed three quotations that could not be sourced (the Rocky Balboa and Cosmos lines and the unattributed “spiral” line); renamed “Phrasal Verbs” to preposition patterns; replaced “on the up and up” (usually means honest in American English) with British “on the up”; changed “making baby steps” to the more common “taking baby steps”; dropped ascension, movement, gain, succession, and transcendence as synonyms; separated verb and noun antonyms; replaced the reproduced OZDIC collocation table with an original selection and a link; filled in the empty pronunciation note.