

Luck

“Those who have succeeded at anything and don’t mention luck are kidding themselves.”

—Larry King, American television host



Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Are you a lucky person?
Why do you think you are (or aren't) lucky?
2. Describe your worst encounter with bad luck.
3. Who is the luckiest person you know? What makes this person lucky?
4. What is the luckiest thing that could happen to you?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.

Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. excuse | a) to make something come in a certain direction |
| ___ 2. slot machine | b) chances |
| ___ 3. land in one’s lap | c) an object that is supposed to attract good fortune |
| ___ 4. attract | d) a reason to help others accept something |
| ___ 5. visualize | e) a contest you enter where there is a chance to win something |
| ___ 6. materialize | f) to become real or true |
| ___ 7. shadow | g) a patch of darkness that results when light is blocked |
| ___ 8. draw | h) to receive without effort |
| ___ 9. odds | i) a machine you put money into in the hopes of winning more back |
| ___ 10. lucky charm | j) to see in your mind, to imagine |

Reading

LUCK

Does it land in your lap?

1. Lucky people are often in the right place at the right time. This is the **excuse** they give. Everyone wants to know their true secret to success. You know someone like this, don't you? He wins money in **slot machines**. Free holidays **land in her lap**. When Miss Perfect meets Mr. Right at the bus stop, you can't help but wish you had her luck.
2. Is it possible that some people **attract** good fortune? This theory is called the law of attraction. According to the law of attraction, good things happen to positive people. The trick is to **visualize** dreams coming true before they **materialize**.
3. The law of attraction theory works in the opposite way too. In other words, bad luck follows negative people like a **shadow**. For example, negative people remind themselves they are not going to win as they enter a **draw**.
4. People play the lottery despite the **odds** of winning. Are your chances of winning higher if you visualize yourself as a millionaire? Perhaps all you need is a **lucky charm** in your pocket.

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. What excuse do some people give for their luck?
2. What example of luck "landing in one's lap" is given?
3. What theory is discussed in the reading?
4. According to the theory, what do positive people do to make their dreams come true?
5. What do some people carry to attract luck?

Vocabulary Review

A. Complete the Sentences

Complete each sentence with the correct word from the vocabulary list on page 1.

1. Bad luck surrounded the grumpy man like a dark _____ .
2. Milan's _____ was a tiny photo of his grandmother.
3. If you _____ yourself on stage, your dreams may come true.
4. We entered the _____ for the new car, but we didn't win.
5. I made up an _____ for missing the party.

B. Word Placement

Where does the word belong in the sentence?
Circle the correct letter.

| # | Word | Sentence |
|---|-----------------|--|
| 1 | slot machines | I'm such a lucky <u>a</u> person, I always <u>b</u> win <u>c</u> money in <u>d</u> . |
| 2 | materialize | Your <u>a</u> dreams will not <u>b</u> unless you <u>c</u> truly believe that they will come true <u>d</u> . |
| 3 | odds | What <u>a</u> are the <u>b</u> of winning a million <u>c</u> dollars in the lottery <u>d</u> ? |
| 4 | land in his lap | Knowing Brian's luck, <u>a</u> a new <u>b</u> car will <u>c</u> within a matter of <u>d</u> days. |
| 5 | attract | According to <u>a</u> the law of attraction, positive <u>b</u> people <u>c</u> positive things <u>d</u> . |

Discussion

1. Do you believe in lucky charms? Why or why not?
2. Describe one time when you felt unlucky.
3. In your opinion, why are some people luckier than others?
4. Have you (or someone you know) ever been at the right place at the right time? What happened?

Class Opinion

Walk around the class and ask your classmates questions. Write their answers in the chart below.

| Classmate's name: | Do you consider yourself a lucky person? | Does bad luck seem to come all at once in your life? | Is the luckiest person you know a positive person? |
|-------------------|--|--|--|
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Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

LUCK

Does it land in your lap?

1. Lucky people are often in the right place at the right time. This is the _____ they give. Everyone wants to know their true secret to success. You know someone like this, don't you? He wins money in slot machines. Free holidays land in her _____. When Miss Perfect meets Mr. Right at the bus stop, you can't help but wish you had her luck.
2. Is it possible that some people _____ good fortune? This theory is called the law of attraction. According to the law of attraction, good things happen to positive people. The trick is to _____ dreams coming true before they _____.
3. The law of attraction theory works in the opposite way too. In other words, bad luck follows negative people like a _____. For example, negative people remind themselves they are not going to win as they enter a _____.
4. People play the lottery despite the _____ of winning. Are your chances of winning higher if you visualize yourself as a millionaire? Perhaps all you need is a _____ charm in your pocket.

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

Students read about luck and discuss whether luck lands in their laps or not. They also learn about the law of attraction.

TEACHING TIPS:

See *Discussion Starters Teaching Guide* (<https://esllibrary.com/courses/72/lessons/>) for a variety of ways to use the reading.

LEVEL: Int

TIME: 1–2 hours

TAGS: luck, lucky, destiny, St. Patrick’s Day, bad luck, good luck, lottery

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Answers will vary. Discuss the quote.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. d | 3. h | 5. j | 7. g | 9. b |
| 2. i | 4. a | 6. f | 8. e | 10. c |

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

Comprehension

- Some people say they are in the right place at the right time.
- Receiving a free holiday is the example from the reading.
- The law of attraction is discussed in the reading.
- According to the law of attraction, positive people imagine their dreams coming true ahead of time.
- Some people carry lucky charms.

Vocabulary Review

A. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

- | | |
|----------------|-----------|
| 1. shadow | 4. draw |
| 2. lucky charm | 5. excuse |
| 3. visualize | |

B. WORD PLACEMENT

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1. d | 2. b | 3. b | 4. c | 5. c |
|------|------|------|------|------|

Discussion

Answers will vary.

Class Opinion

Optional task. Individual answers.

Listening

- excuse, lap
- attract, visualize, materialize
- shadow, draw
- odds, lucky