

Name _____ Date _____

Learn to be lucky

In June 1980, Maureen Wilcox became one of the US lottery's biggest losers. She chose the winning numbers for both the Rhode Island and Massachusetts lotteries. Unfortunately for her, the numbers she picked for the Rhode Island lottery were the correct ones for the Massachusetts lottery, and vice versa.

We all know lucky people. They have good relationships, successful careers and are very satisfied with their lives. What makes them so lucky? Dr. Richard Wiseman has spent ten years studying luck and has found that lucky people have a completely different approach to the world.

The results of his work revealed that people aren't born lucky. Instead, fortunate people behave in a way that creates good luck in their lives. They notice opportunities that happen by chance more often than unlucky people. They are also more open to meeting new people and having new experiences.

They tend to make good decisions by listening to their intuition. They're optimists and are certain that the future is going to be full of good luck. This positive attitude often makes good things happen. They're also good at coping with bad luck and often cheer themselves up by imagining things could be worse than they are.

Dr. Wiseman tested his ideas by starting a luck school, where he hoped that unlucky people could learn to be lucky. 400 volunteers spent a month doing exercises to help them think and act like a lucky person. These exercises helped the volunteers see opportunities that happen accidentally, trust their intuition more, feel sure they're going to be lucky and become better at dealing with bad luck.

The results were dramatic and showed that 80% of the volunteers were now happier and more content with their lives and most important of all, luckier. Dr. Wiseman's ideas won't help you win the lottery, but they might help you in your day-to-day life - fingers crossed!

Choose the word that means the same as the word in bold.

pick	approach	revealed	fortunate	certain
act	cope with	accidentally	see	content

1. **choose** _____6. **by chance** _____2. **satisfied** _____7. **attitude** _____3. **lucky** _____8. **sure** _____4. **behave** _____9. **deal with** _____5. **notice** _____10. **show** _____

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Answer the questions below.

1. Did Maureen win the lottery?

2. Why do some people seem luckier than others?

3. Are people born lucky?

4. What are some reasons in the story that explains why some people seem lucky?

5. Do you think you are a lucky person? Why or why not?

6. Do you know anyone that you think is a lucky person?

7. Do you think people can learn how to be lucky?

8. Are you pessimistic or optimistic?

9. Do you want to change or are you content with the way you are?

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Learn to be lucky - **Answers**

Page 1:

choose - pick
satisfied - content
lucky - fortunate
behave - act
notice - see
by chance - accidentally
attitude - approach
sure - certain
deal with - cope with
show - revealed

Page 2:

1. No Maureen did not win the lottery.
2. Some people seem luckier than others because they have a different approach to the world.
3. No People are not born lucky.
4. Some people seem lucky because they listen to their intuition, they are optimistic and they notice opportunities by chance.
- 5 - 9 . Answers will vary