

Trying your luck 试试你的运气

Vocabulary: *gambling* 词汇: 赌博

Have you ever had a **punt**? I was brought up to believe that you **make your own luck** but I admit that I buy the occasional lottery ticket.

I have won a million pounds but only in my dreams. **The odds** are high and the money I spend on tickets is worth it for a few moments **wondering**: If I were to win, how fast would I quit my job? Where would my big house with a swimming pool be? And what countries would I visit?



Here in Britain, a **bet** bought me more than a few hours of **day dreaming**. It happened when I **bet** on a horse **taking part in** the Grand National. This race, which started in the 1830s, takes place every spring. Many people get involved. Even people like me, whose knowledge of horses doesn't go further than knowing they are big and have four legs.

I went into a **betting shop** in London with a friend and we chose a horse from a list. They had funny names like 'Rare Bob' and 'On His Own'. For the same price as a light lunch, we **pinned our hopes** on a horse and joined a group of **punters** by a big TV. We watched the race with them and cheered together – **gamblers** united! But Lady Luck was nowhere to be seen. Our horse came in third place.

The voice of reason says: Never **bet** what you can't afford to lose. Some people are **addicted** to **gambling** and while **casinos** are big business in some countries, they are **banned** in others.

Betting shops have their place in the streets of Britain as much as pubs and tea houses, but in some areas there are new ones appearing every day. **Gambling** companies want to **profit** from **electronic terminals** for **fruit machines** and **roulette**.

The authorities in Newham and Haringey in London have been trying to control the number of shops, especially in poorer areas with high levels of unemployment.

I hold on to the money in my pocket. Life is already too much of a **gamble**.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. What does the author want to do if he wins the lottery?
2. When was the Grand National created?
3. Is the statement true or false? *Many betting shops are closing in Britain because unemployed people have no money to bet.*
4. What are the authorities concerned about?
5. Which expression means 'whatever you want in life you have to go and get it'?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. John sold his house for double the price he paid last year. He made a big _____!

punt	odds	bet	profit
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2. Ann says she is going to quit smoking but never does. She _____ to it.

pins her hopes	is addicted	is keen	has a punt
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3. It is very expensive to go to university. Are you sure you can _____ the fees?

bet	wonder	afford	buy
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4. Some people are always late for work and mistreat their colleagues. A bad attitude in the office can lead to _____.

unemployment	gambling	day dreaming	profit
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5. I'm not very fit. That's why I didn't want to take part _____ the race.

on	at	in	over
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. What does the author want to do if he wins the lottery? **Quit his job, buy a big house and visit other countries.**
2. When was the Grand National created? **In the 1830s.**
3. Is the statement true or false? *Many betting shops are closing in Britain because unemployed people have no money to bet.* **False. New ones are opening because they want to profit from electronic terminals.**
4. What are the authorities concerned about? **The opening of new betting shops in areas where people have little money. Some people are addicted to gambling.**
5. Which expression means 'whatever you want in life you have to go and get it'? **You make your own luck.**

Exercise 练习

1. John sold his house for double the price he paid last year. He made a big **profit**!
2. Ann says she is going to quit smoking but never does. She **is addicted** to it.
3. It is very expensive to go to university. Are you sure you can **afford** the fees?
4. Some people are always late for work and mistreat their colleagues. A bad attitude in the office can lead to **unemployment**.
5. I'm not very fit. That's why I didn't want to take part **in** the race!

Glossary 词汇表

a punt	赌博
to make (your) own luck	自己创造运气
the odds	(投注) 赔率, 几率
wondering	思考, 猜想
a bet	赌注
to day dream	白日做梦
to take part in (something)	参加 (比赛)
a betting shop	彩票销售点
to pin (our) hopes	把 (我们的) 希望寄托在...上
a punter	赌马者
a gambler	赌徒
addicted	上瘾的
gambling	赌博
a casino	赌场
to ban	禁止
to profit	赚钱
an electronic terminal	电子终端
a fruit machine	老虎机
roulette	轮盘赌
to gamble	冒险, 赌博 (动词)