

Are you a winner? 你是赢家吗?

Vocabulary: Competitions 词汇: 比赛, 竞争

I'm sometimes told you have to **make your own luck**. If you don't try something, how can you succeed? This is very true for **competitions** – if you want a chance of winning something you have to take part. In other words, **you have to be in it to win it!**



Lucky numbers?

There are people who regularly take part in all sorts of competitions with great **enthusiasm**. These people are nicknamed '**compers**'. They use every spare minute writing **slogans** and **captions**, answering questions and completing crosswords. You could almost say it's like an **addiction**.

The motivation for being a 'comper' is obvious: it's about being a winner and being rewarded with a **prize**. These can be small or large: from a box of chocolates to a new car, **a trip of a lifetime** around the world, or even a new house. Isn't that worth competing for? Unfortunately, I haven't won any of those things. But, to be honest, I don't enter many competitions.

Of course competitions that offer money prizes attract entries from millions of people, making the **odds** of winning very unlikely. But one man who has been lucky is a retired lecturer from the UK called Martin Dove. He is a **serial 'comper'** and has managed **to bag** prizes such a yacht and a race horse.

Martin says: "I've been a comper for 40 years. It's like admitting some addiction, isn't it really?" He gets respect from other compers and also admits: "Some people have called me the **Master** of Comping, the King of Comping, the **Guru** of Comping. But it's just a word, just a phrase. It's just I was fairly high-profile."

If scanning the supermarket shelves for cereal boxes and crisp packets for your next big win sounds too much like hard work, you can always try the **lottery**. This is a game where people buy a lottery ticket hoping that the numbers on their ticket are chosen in a **draw** so that they win a big money prize. Some people dream about being a **millionaire** and hope this type of game will make that dream real.

For many, winning remains a dream, but they continue **to try their luck** as there's always a small chance they might succeed. But what if you do win? Then you have to ask: how am I going to spend all that money? Some people say that '**money can't buy you happiness**'. What do you think?

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 do you call people who take part in a lot of competitions?
2. How easy is it to win the most valuable prizes?
3. Is this statement true or false? *You can't find competitions on cereal packets.*
4. How do you win a money prize playing the lottery?
5. What question do you need to ask if you win the lottery?

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. I spent all day at the sales but I didn't have much _____ and just came home with a new pair of gloves.

addiction	luck	competition	prizes
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2. TV advertising often contains clever _____ to make people buy products.

slogan	sloganning	slogans	captions
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3. My dad was a shipbuilder all his life. He was a _____ of his trade.

master	guru	king	sailor
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4. Everyone wanted to get home for Spring Festival. _____ of buying a ticket were very unlikely.

The lottery	The odds	The prize	The competition
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5. Martin played the _____ every week in the hope of winning a big cash prize.

investment	lottery	comper	gamble
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Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. What do you call people who take part in a lot of competitions?
Answer: Compers.
2. How easy is it to win the most valuable prizes?
Answer: Not easy. The odds of winning are very unlikely.
3. Is this statement true or false? *You can't find competitions on cereal packets.*
Answer: False.
4. How do you win a money prize playing the lottery?
Answer: The numbers on your lottery ticket have to be chosen in a draw.
5. What question do you need to ask if you win the lottery?
Answer: How am I going to spend the money?

Exercise 练习

1. I spent all day at the sales but I didn't have much **luck** and just came home with a new pair of gloves.
2. TV advertising often contains clever **slogans** to make people buy products.
3. My dad was a shipbuilder all his life – he was a **master** of his trade.
4. Everyone wanted to get home for Spring Festival. **The odds** of buying a ticket were very unlikely.
5. Martin played the **lottery** every week in the hope of winning a big cash prize.

Glossary 词汇表

make your own luck	自创好运
competitions	比赛
you have to be in it to win it	你要赢就必须参赛
enthusiasm	热情
compers	(为了赢得更多的奖品) 频繁参赛者的人
slogans	口号, 标语
captions	(图片) 注释
addiction	上瘾, 着迷
prize	奖励
a trip of a lifetime	毕生难忘的旅行
odds	机率
serial comper	连续参赛者
to bag	获得, 赢得
master	大师
guru	大师, 专家, 权威
lottery	彩票
draw	(名词) 抽奖
millionaire	百万富翁
to try their luck	碰运气
money can't buy you happiness	金钱难买幸福