



Episode 24: Lottery Luck

Hi! If this is your first time listening to our podcast, this is an opportunity for upper level English learners to practice listening skills and learn new vocabulary by listening to authentic conversations.

For more information about ways to use this podcast, download notes for [students](#) or [teachers](#).

In today's episode Donielle and Khrystyna discuss a funny story in the news, and then continue with a discussion about luck and winning. You can find the original article [HERE](#).

Here are a few words and phrases from the above article (that were not covered in our conversation), which you may find useful:

be hung up on [something]	obsessively or exclusively interested in something • <i>You can find good deals as long as you're <u>not hung up on</u> the location.</i>
fall short of [something]	fail to reach an amount or standard that was expected or hoped for, causing disappointment • <i>He <u>fell a bit short of</u> hitting the jackpot.</i>
walk away with [something]	Phrasal Verb: To win something, especially in an easy way. • <i>He only <u>walked away with</u> a buck.</i> Note: dependent on context, this phrasal verb can also mean: to steal something
hell-bent on [doing something]	extremely determined to do something, esp. in a stubborn way or without considering the risks or possible dangerous results • <i>He <u>was hell-bent on</u> making sure he felt like a big winner.</i>
beaming	with a big smile on someone's face because they are happy, pleased, or proud about something • <i>He posed for the picture, <u>beaming</u> a wide grin while holding up the check.</i>
waltz [to some place]	to walk somewhere quickly and confidently, often in a way that annoys other people • <i>So he <u>waltzed</u> over to the lottery headquarters in Des Moines, Iowa to get the ginormous check of his dreams.</i>
pale in comparison to [something else]	idiom: to seem much less serious or important when compared with someone or something else • <i>His winnings <u>pale in comparison</u> to the biggest lotto jackpot of all time.</i>

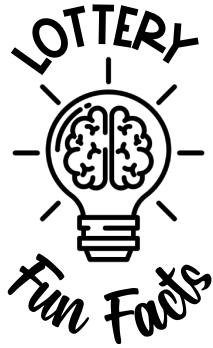
You can also read the [transcript](#) for this episode.

See the following pages for vocabulary and language focus from this episode.



Vocabulary: Words and Phrases Used in the Conversation

pool	(n.) an amount of money that has been collected from many people for some purpose (v.) to collect money or other resources for a specific purpose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We had an office lottery <u>pool</u>. We <u>pooled</u> our resources.
jackpot hit the jackpot	-a usually large amount of money won in a game of chance -win all the money possible in a game of chance
hit it big	Score a major success, especially when referring to earnings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> She <u>hit it big</u> in the state lottery.
stink	have a terrible smell <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These dirty socks <u>stink</u>.
filthy	extremely dirty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The carpet was so <u>filthy</u> we had to steam clean it three times.
stinking rich filthy rich	extremely rich - used to imply that a person's wealth is excessive or offensive
oversized	larger than normal sized. Note that adding the prefix "over" often gives the meaning of more than what is normal, expected, or correct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e.g. overpriced, overcooked, overdo, overconfident, overdose, etc.
blow	spend (money) foolishly or recklessly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He won \$1.5 million in the lottery, but he <u>blew</u> it all in 6 months.
legit	often used as a short form of "legitimate" meaning real, authentic, honest, etc. But also used as slang (as in the context of this conversation) to mean "actually" to describe a situation that is very surprising or unusual. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They <u>legit</u> gave him a dollar check.
crew	slang term for a group of friends who hang out together
premise	a way to refer to what a movie, show, etc. is about – the basic concept <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <u>premise</u> of the game is...
housewarming gift	a gift to give someone when they move into a new home signifying a wish for happiness, prosperity, and comfort in their new space.
realtor	another word for real estate agent – the person you hire to help you buy or sell your home.
pitch in	Phrasal Verb: individuals in a group giving money for a shared purpose OR to describe making individual contributions toward a common goal. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We each <u>pitched in</u> \$2 toward the lottery pool. If we all <u>pitch in</u>, we can finish cleaning the house in an hour.
bucks	common slang word for "dollars" – We each pitched in 10 <u>bucks</u> .
raffle	a contest that a group or organization uses to earn money and involves people buying numbered tickets in exchange for a chance to win a prize
a round	a single game out of a series of games that are played <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five people at our table won <u>a round</u> of bingo that day.



- Americans spend more money on the lottery than all other forms of entertainment: more than books, sports tickets, video games, music and movie tickets combined.
- The movie *It Could Happen to You?* was inspired by a real-life story of a police officer, finding himself at a restaurant without money to leave a tip, promises to split any potential winnings from his lottery ticket with his server, who also helped him pick the numbers. True to his word, he gave her half of his 6 million-dollar winnings.
- Almost half of all big winners keep their day jobs.
- Most winners blow through their winnings because they are too generous - they give money and expensive gifts to friends and family.
- The biggest lottery jackpot in America was 2.04 billion, won by a single person in 2022.
- There is a surprisingly large number of people who have hit it big in the lottery more than once, including a North Carolina woman who won twice in the same day!

Join the Conversation

- Do you ever play the lottery? Why or why not?
- Have you ever won anything in a lottery, raffle, or other contest? Tell the story.
- What would you do if you hit it big in the lottery? What would you buy? Would you give any of your winnings away? How would your life change?
- What advice would you give someone who hit it big in the lottery?
- What do you think about the man who requested the oversized check and a photo op after winning one dollar in the Iowa State Lottery? Why do you think he wanted to do it? Would you want to do that?
- As mentioned in the episode, reading blog post articles like the one discussed is a great way to increase your conversational vocabulary. Read the [article](#) with the story about the dollar lottery winner and a few other notable winners. Discuss the other cases in the story. Identify at least 3 words or phrases that were new to you and talk about their use and meaning.
- Read and discuss the Lottery Fun Facts at the top of the page. What are your thoughts on those facts? Which was the most interesting? Which was the most surprising?

Thanks for checking out our podcast!

We are enjoying these discussions, and we hope that you are finding them helpful!



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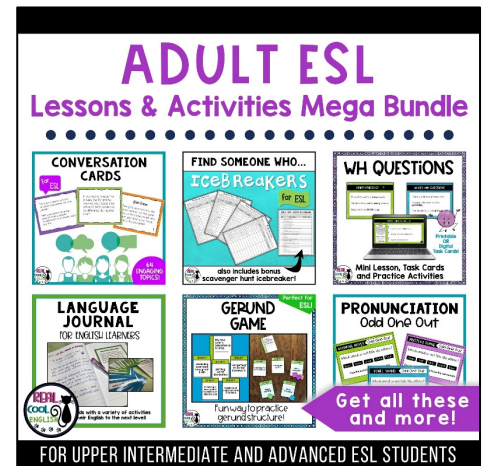
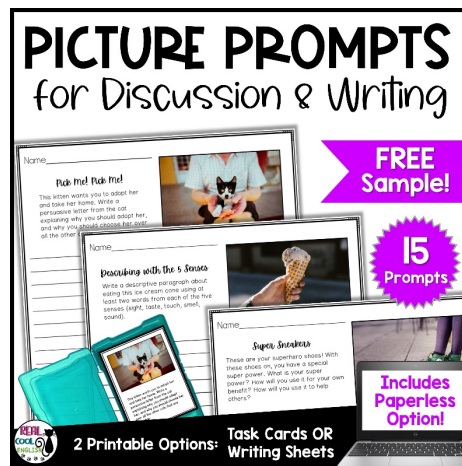
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