

WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

This activity reveals the odds of winning the lottery, comparing it to the likelihood of other events. It provides the opportunity to discuss the differences between the perception and the reality of how likely a National Lottery win is.*



TIME:
20-25 min



MATERIALS TO PRINT:

Event handout cards, Odds handout cards (optional), Practitioner answer sheet, Practitioner notes: Recent changes to the National Lottery

METHOD

1

Provide the group with a set of 'Events Handout Cards.'

2

Ask the group to put the cards in order from the most likely event to the least likely event.

3

Go through the order they have chosen, asking them to guess what the odds are for each event.

4

Provide the group with the 'Odds Handout Cards' and ask them to guess which cards correspond with each event, before revealing the correct odds.

Alternative options:

If it's a big group, you could divide it into teams and use multiple sets of cards. We have provided 3 sets: A, B, C.

You could give one card to each person and then ask the group to stand up, forming a line from the person with the most likely event to the one with the least likely event. Then proceed from step 3.

* Activity created by the Addiction Recovery Agency (ARA), Bristol

WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

5

Encourage discussion of the correct likelihood for each event and how perception might affect someone's decisions around gambling. Particularly, reflect on the implications of 1:97 chances of winning £30 with a lottery ticket (minimum cash win at the national lottery, when matching 3 main numbers):

- this is of course much more likely than winning the jackpot (1:45 million);
- 1:97 means that on an average every 97 tickets there is one winning ticket for £30 (yet it's an average, so sometimes there could be none and in other cases there could be more than one £30 winning ticket);
- given that one lottery ticket costs £2, even if I win £30 once, the reality is that every 97 tickets I will have spent £194 to get £30 back, so I will be still in a loss of £164;
- on average, for every 97 people who buy 1 lottery ticket each, there will be just 1 person winning £30, yet this winner will usually tell other people about the £30 win, whilst all those who have lost will stay quiet. This may change people's perceptions, who might not realise how common losing is.



WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

EVENT HANDOUT CARDS (A)

**ROLLING A
DOUBLE 6
WITH 2 DICE**

**WINNING
£30 IN THE
NATIONAL
LOTTERY**

**BEING
KILLED BY
LIGHTNING**

**DRAWING AN
ACE FROM A
FULL DECK
OF CARDS**

**DYING IN A
PLANE
CRASH**

**GETTING ALL
6 NUMBERS
IN THE
NATIONAL
LOTTERY**

**FINDING A
FOUR-LEAF
CLOVER ON
THE FIRST
TRY**

WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

ODDS HANDOUT CARDS (A)

1 IN 36

1 IN 97

**1 IN 10
MILLION**

1 IN 13

**1 IN 11
MILLION**

**1 IN 45
MILLION**

**1 IN
10,000**

WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

EVENT HANDOUT CARDS (B)

**FLIPPING 12
HEADS IN A
ROW WITH A
COIN**

**WINNING
£30 IN THE
NATIONAL
LOTTERY**

**DRAWING AN
ACE FROM A
FULL DECK
OF CARDS**

**HAVING AN
ACCIDENT
ON A UK
FAIRGROUND
RIDE**

**DYING IN A
PLANE
CRASH**

**GETTING 5
MAIN
NUMBERS
AND 2
LUCKY
STARS IN
EuroMillions**

**FINDING A
FOUR-LEAF
CLOVER ON
THE FIRST
TRY**

WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

ODDS HANDOUT CARDS (B)

1 IN 4,096

1 IN 97

1 IN 13

**1 IN 2
MILLION**

**1 IN 11
MILLION**

**1 IN 140
MILLION**

**1 IN
10,000**

WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

EVENT HANDOUT CARDS (C)

**ROLLING A
DOUBLE 6
WITH 2 DICE**

**WINNING
£30 IN THE
NATIONAL
LOTTERY**

**HAVING AN
ACCIDENT
ON A UK
FAIRGROUND
RIDE**

**WINNING THE
4TH
ROLLOVER
FRIDAY
EuroMillions
DRAW**

**DYING IN A
PLANE
CRASH**

**GETTING ALL
6 NUMBERS
IN THE
NATIONAL
LOTTERY**

**WINNING
THE BASE
FRIDAY
EuroMillions
DRAW**

WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

ODDS HANDOUT CARDS (C)

1 IN 36

1 IN 97

**1 IN 2
MILLION**

**1 IN 8
MILLION**

**1 IN 11
MILLION**

**1 IN 45
MILLION**

**1 IN 6
MILLION**

WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

PRACTITIONER ANSWER SHEET

Answers for sheet A

Being killed by lightning
1:10 million

Drawing an ace from a full deck of cards
1:13

Rolling a double 6 with 2 dice
1:36

Winning £30 in the National Lottery
1:97

Dying in a plane crash
1:11 million

Getting all 6 numbers in the National Lottery
1:45 million

Finding a four-leaf clover on the first try
1:10,000

Answers for sheet B

Having an accident on a UK fairground ride
1:2 million

Winning £30 in the National Lottery
1:97

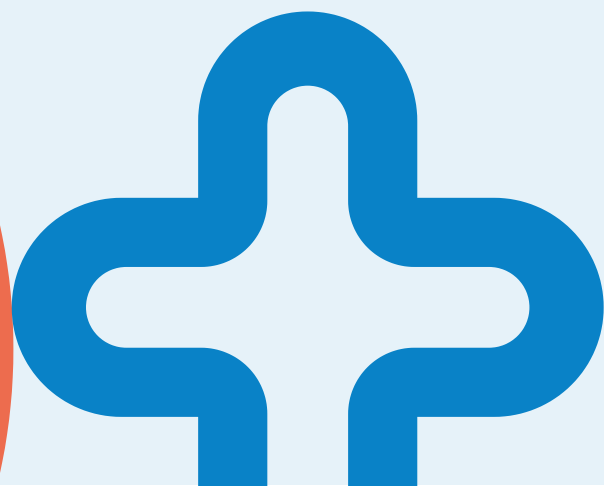
Finding a four-leaf clover on the first try
1:10,000

Dying in a plane crash
1:11 million

Getting all 6 numbers in the National Lottery
1:45 million

Flipping 12 heads in a row with a coin
1:4,096

Winning the EuroMillions Jackpot (getting 5 numbers and 2 stars)
1:140 million



WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

PRACTITIONER ANSWER SHEET

Answer for sheet C

Rolling a double 6 with 2 dice

1:36

Winning £30 in the National Lottery

1:97

Having an accident on a UK fairground ride

1:2 million

Winning the 4th Rollover Friday EuroMillions Draw

1:8 million

Dying in a plane crash

1:11 million

Getting all 6 numbers in the National Lottery

1:45 million

Winning the base Friday EuroMillions Draw

1:6 million

