

Feeling lucky?

- 1 I won a pair of cinema tickets recently. Then a free haircut. While sceptical about luck, I couldn't help but wonder if it might run in threes. The next day, I had a third stroke of luck. A mugging. Was it bad luck that I had my bag snatched? Or good luck that I was unhurt?
- 2 Neither. It was a chance event. When I decided to walk down an unfamiliar street, feeling lucky didn't come into it. I balanced the time of day – early evening – and the presence of street lighting against the area being unexpectedly isolated.
- 3 "Luck is a really interesting aspect of risk and chance," says Cambridge University psychologist Dr Mike Aitken. "We can all remember days when good things happened to us, and days when less good things happened, and we attribute the difference to a lucky day and an unlucky day. You could argue that luck exists in that sense."
- 4 But some people believe luck influences external events – that if they buy a lottery ticket on their lucky day, they'll be more likely to win. "That's a much harder belief to justify, because there's no way the day you buy your lottery ticket can influence the likelihood that you're going to win," says Aitken. "Research has suggested that people who think of themselves as lucky actually are lucky, because they are more willing to take advantage of opportunities."
- 5 There are two approaches to deciding whether to take a chance: head vs gut. "There's risk as analysis, where you work out the odds of winning the lottery," says David Spiegelhalter, professor for the understanding of risk at the University of Cambridge. "Then there's risk as feeling, which can be influenced by you feeling 'this is a good day for me, I'm going to take this risk, do this bold thing'."
- 6 Believing in luck can serve a useful function, psychologists say. It may help us make sense of chance events, such as being involved in an accident, a mugging or natural disaster, as it can help people feel more optimistic when circumstances are beyond their control. Maybe I should have bought a lottery ticket that day after all...

Adapted from an article by Megan Lane

bbc.co.uk, 2011

Tekst 5 Feeling lucky?

- 1p 14 What conclusion do the first three paragraphs lead up to?
- A Believing in luck is a way in which people interpret reality.
 - B Luck helps people to justify the risks they have taken.
 - C Luck is a subject scientists have not studied extensively.
 - D Some people rely more on luck than they should.
- 1p 15 Which of the following reflect(s) what Aitken says in paragraph 4?
- 1 People who believe they are lucky are prepared to make the most of everything that comes their way.
 - 2 People who believe they are lucky have more control over what actually happens.
- A Only 1.
 - B Only 2.
 - C Both 1 and 2.
 - D Neither 1 nor 2.

“There are two approaches to deciding whether to take a chance: head vs gut.” (alinea 5)

- 1p 16 In welke eerdere zin geeft de schrijfster van dit artikel een voorbeeld van hoe zij één van beide benaderingen heeft toegepast? Citeer de eerste twee woorden van de zin waarin ze dit voorbeeld geeft.
- 1p 17 What is the main point made about believing in luck in paragraph 6? It can
- A give people the strength to do something dangerous.
 - B help people cope with negative experiences.
 - C prevent people from behaving irresponsibly.
 - D stimulate people to spend money on gambling.

“Maybe I should have bought a lottery ticket that day after all...”
(last sentence)

- 1p 18 How can the tone of this remark be characterised?
- A As annoyed.
 - B As disappointed.
 - C As matter-of-fact.
 - D As playful.

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift, dat na afloop van het examen wordt gepubliceerd.