

THE ARTICLE

People often talk about “the luck of the Irish”, which refers to folks from the Emerald Isle being a tad luckier than ordinary souls. This proved true on July 30, when Dolores McNamara, from Limerick, scooped a mammoth \$135 million on the European Lottery in a winner-take-all jackpot. The mind-boggling bounty has left Ms. McNamara recovering from the shock of her sudden windfall and totally speechless. The jackpot had not been won since May and had been rolled over nine times, keeping hopeful ticket holders around Europe on tenterhooks. The winning amount is nearly double that of the previous record best.

Ms. McNamara had been enjoying a quiet drink in a bar when she checked her ticket. She had apparently just told a friend: “There’s little point in checking the ticket. I can’t even win an argument, let alone the lottery”. However, Lady Luck smiled on her seconds later and she went straight to the police, fearful that she might lose her newly landed fortune. A policeman told her he had no jurisdiction to look after the ticket and phoned her bank manager, who readily obliged by placing the ticket in a bank vault for safekeeping. Unfortunately, Monday is a national holiday in Ireland, so Dolores must wait until Tuesday before she can redeem the ticket and get her hands on her millions.

LOTTERY: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word “lottery”.



STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a. What were your initial thoughts on this headline?
- b. Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- c. What adjectives describe your feelings as you read the story?
- d. Do you think some people are luckier than others?
- e. How would you react in the seconds or minutes following news that you had won such a large amount of money?
- f. Have you ever received any kind of windfall?
- g. Have you ever been kept on tenterhooks about anything?
- h. How mind-boggling do you think having \$135 million would be?
- i. Have you ever been left totally speechless?
- j. Who's the luckiest person you know?

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a. Did you like reading this article?
- b. What did you think about what you read?
- c. Do you buy lottery tickets?
- d. Are you a gambler?
- e. Do you ever feel that life is a lottery?
- f. Are you good at winning arguments?
- g. What would you do if you got your hands on \$135 million?
- h. What do you think of lotteries?
- i. Will you go and buy a lottery ticket after this lesson?
- j. Did you like this discussion?



FORMS	DANGERS	ATTRACTIONS
Lottery tickets		
Horse racing		
Bingo		
Pachinko		
Casinos		