



**Welsh Gambling
Education Hub**

ACTIVITY:
**What are the
odds?**



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What are the odds?

This activity reveals the odds of winning the Lottery and of other events. It gives the opportunity to discuss the differences between the perception and the reality of winning the National Lottery.¹⁴⁴



Time:
20-25min



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, asking them to consider the likelihood for the UK only.
- 3** Go through the order they have chosen, asking them to guess what the odds are for each event.
- 4** Provide feedback by giving the correct odds for each event, so that the young people can rearrange their cards in the correct order (as you do so, you could hand them out the 'odds cards' to be matched to each event, as a visual aid).

Alternative options:

If it's a big group, you could divide it into teams and use multiple sets of cards.

You could give 1 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.

¹⁴⁴ 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 one's choices of 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 1 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?

Events Handout Cards



**ROLLING A
DOUBLE 6
WITH 2 DICE**

**WINNING
£30 IN THE
NATIONAL
LOTTERY**

**BEING
KILLED
BY
LIGHTNING**

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

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

**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



**1 IN 10
MILLION**

1 IN 13

1 IN 4,096

**1 IN 45
MILLION**

**1 IN 11
MILLION**

1 IN 36

**1 IN 2
MILLION**

**1 IN
10,000**

1 IN 97

What are the odds?

Practitioner Answer Sheet

**ROLLING A
DOUBLE 6
WITH 2 DICE**

1 IN 36

**WINNING £30 IN
THE NATIONAL
LOTTERY**

1 IN 97

**BEING KILLED
BY LIGHTNING**

1 IN 10 MILLION

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

1 IN 4,096

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

1 IN 2 MILLION

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

1 IN 13

**DYING IN A
PLANE CRASH**

1 IN 11 MILLION

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

1 IN 45 MILLION

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

1 IN 10,000

What are the odds?

Practitioner Notes: Recent Changes to the National Lottery

Since October 2015, players can pick 6 numbers from a total of 59 numbers, instead of the 49 numbers played in the old National Lottery. **Adding 10 numbers has made winning a cash prize less likely than before:**

	Old rules (49 numbers)	New rules (59 numbers)
Matching 3 numbers (winning £30)	1:57	1:97
Matching 4 numbers (winning estimated £140)	1:1,033	1:2,180
Matching 5 numbers (winning estimated £1,750)	1:55,491	1:114,415
Matching 5 numbers + Bonus Ball (winning estimated £1,000,000)	1:2.3 million	1:7.5 million
Matching 6 numbers (winning the Jackpot, usually over £2 million)	1:14 million	1:45 million

To compensate this change, a new prize has been added. Now, when matching two numbers, the player wins a “Free Lotto Lucky Dip”, meaning a new lottery ticket – it’s not possible to take the money instead.

A National Lottery Ticket costs £2.

The odds of winning any prize playing EuroMillions are one in 13. The odds of winning the EuroMillions jackpot is much higher, at 1 in 139,838,160.