

DID YOU KNOW?

1 Read this text about the lottery in Britain.

Taking a chance!

Let's think about the lottery for a minute. Many people do the lottery in Britain. They buy a lottery ticket once or maybe twice a week.

It costs one pound, or about 1.5 euros. People choose six numbers. Every Wednesday and Saturday, a machine picks the six winning numbers. If the numbers on the ticket are the same as the winning numbers, there is a prize of millions of pounds.

Fantastic ... although most people realise that the possibility of winning the lottery is very small. In fact, it is a one in fourteen million chance! So why do people buy a lottery ticket? Because they want to win the lottery, and so they don't think logically about it.

But now imagine *lottery* is a very dangerous illness:

A man visits his doctor and says 'I'm very worried. I read about a terrible illness called *lottery* in the newspaper. I don't want to catch it.'

'Oh, don't worry!' says the doctor. 'You have only a *one in fourteen million* chance of catching it.'



The man is very happy. He thinks, 'It is almost impossible for me to catch *lottery*!'

On the way home, he buys a lottery ticket to celebrate. 'Perhaps today I will win!' he thinks. He doesn't want to catch a dangerous illness and he thinks a chance of one in fourteen million is almost impossible. But he does want to win a lot of money. So when he thinks about the lottery, he says, 'I can win! One in fourteen million isn't impossible.'

Perhaps he has six special numbers and uses the same numbers every week for the lottery. He thinks that this gives him a better chance of winning. He is wrong. Lotteries have no memory. Every time he plays the lottery, he has exactly the same chance of winning.

One in fourteen million!

2 Read the text again and answer these questions.

- 1 How many numbers do people choose for the lottery in Britain?
- 2 Is *lottery* a dangerous illness?
- 3 Why does the man think that it is almost impossible to catch *lottery*?
- 4 Why does the man think that he can win the lottery?

3 Can you throw a six?

If you throw a dice, what is the chance of getting a six? If you throw a dice twice, what is the chance of getting a six twice?

