

Name:

Date:

# "B1-B2 English Reading Exercise: A Lottery Win That Changed Everything"



## A Lucky Break or a Big Mistake?

### Before You Read:

1. Would you enjoy winning a huge sum of money? Why or why not?

2. Do you believe that wealthy people are always happy?

### A. Read the text.

Liam Parker purchased his first and only lottery ticket in August 2003. That very night, he won a staggering \$15 million. "It felt like a dream," said Liam. "I thought I could achieve everything I had ever wanted." Liam, a single father, decided to take his parents and two children on a luxurious trip around the world. "It was amazing," Liam shared. "We traveled on a magnificent cruise ship. We visited places like the Maldives, Tokyo, New Zealand, and Dubai. It was unforgettable."

However, everything changed when Liam returned home. "I just wanted to stay the same," he said. Before his win, Liam worked as a chef at a local secondary school. But once he went back to work, his colleagues behaved differently. "They couldn't understand why I still wanted to work. They stopped talking to me like they used to," he explained.

Liam eventually left his job and relocated with his children to a spacious house in the suburbs, complete with a swimming pool and a stable for their two horses. "It was an incredible home," said Sophie, Liam's thirteen-year-old daughter. "At first, I was the most popular girl in school." "Everyone wanted to hang out with me," added ten-year-old Noah, Liam's son. "They would come over to swim or ride our horses."

But soon, Liam, Sophie, and Noah realized that their new 'friends' were more interested in their money than their company. "I would get over 200 letters a month asking for donations," said Liam. "I just wanted to go back to being a regular person, but it seemed impossible."



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In February 2006, Liam and his children made a life-changing decision. They chose to sell their house and donate nearly all their winnings to various charities. "It was a huge relief," said Liam, who now lives in a small townhouse with his family. "I even got my old job back at the school. My coworkers think I'm crazy, but I'm happier without the money."

**B. Read the text again and mark each statement as T (True), F (False), or DS (Doesn't Say). Correct the false statements.**

After Liam won the lottery:

- \_\_\_\_\_ He went on a luxury vacation with his family.
- \_\_\_\_\_ He purchased a new home in the city.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Even his best friend changed after his win.
- \_\_\_\_\_ His colleagues no longer treated him the same.
- \_\_\_\_\_ He lost all his money due to poor investments.



**C. Match the words on the left with the definitions on the right.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ A cruise (n) a. A place where horses are kept
- \_\_\_\_\_ Relief (n) b. An organization that assists those in need
- \_\_\_\_\_ A stable (n) c. The feeling you get when stress or worry ends
- \_\_\_\_\_ Charity (n) d. A journey taken on a large ship
- \_\_\_\_\_ Colleagues (n) e. People you work with
- \_\_\_\_\_

**D. Critical Thinking: Answer the following questions:**

- Do you believe Liam was foolish to give away most of his fortune to charity?
- Will Liam, Sophie, and Noah's friends accept them as 'ordinary people' again?
- Would you consider buying a lottery ticket today? Why or why not?



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# Answer Key

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## Before You Read:

1. Would you enjoy winning a huge sum of money? Why or why not?

- Sample Answer: "Yes, I would like to win a lot of money because it would give me the freedom to travel, support my family, and donate to causes I care about. However, it could also bring new challenges, like people treating me differently."

2. Do you believe that wealthy people are always happy?

- Sample Answer: "No, I don't think that being wealthy guarantees happiness. Many rich people face stress, loneliness, or trust issues because people may only want to be around them for their money."

## B. True/False Statements

- T - He went on a luxury vacation with his family.
- F - He purchased a new home in the suburbs, not the city.
- DS - It doesn't specify if his best friend changed.
- T - His colleagues no longer treated him the same.
- F - He didn't lose his money due to poor investments; he donated it.

## C. Matching

- d - A cruise
- c - Relief
- a - A stable
- b - Charity
- e - Colleagues

## D: Critical Thinking

- Do you believe Liam was foolish to give away most of his fortune to charity?
  - Sample Answer: "No, I think it was brave of Liam to give away his money if it was making him unhappy. Sometimes, living a simpler life can be more fulfilling than having lots of money but no real friends."
- Will Liam, Sophie, and Noah's friends accept them as 'ordinary people' again?
  - Sample Answer: "It might be difficult for some people to treat them normally again, especially if they were only interested in them for their money before. However, their true friends will appreciate them for who they are, not for their wealth."
- Would you consider buying a lottery ticket today? Why or why not?
  - Sample Answer: "I wouldn't buy a lottery ticket because the chances of winning are very low. I'd rather focus on working hard for my money. However, some people might buy one just for fun, hoping to get lucky."