

Read the text and answer the questions that follow.

A LOOK AT LUCK

Once there was a man who constantly said, "I'm so unlucky! I never win the lottery!" Finally, tired of his complaining, his wife said, "Maybe your luck would improve if you bought a lottery ticket."

This old joke sums up what psychologist Richard Wiseman found when researching luck – some people wait for luck to come their way, while others know that they must do something to be lucky. Many of us view luck or misfortune as the result of chance, or random occurrences. Of course, in some respects, this is absolutely correct – consider things like being born into a particular family or being hit by a car while standing on the pavement.

But chance alone does not explain all aspects of luck, as Wiseman found when he scientifically researched the concept of luck. Four hundred volunteers, aged 18 to 84, who defined themselves as exceptionally lucky or unlucky, participated in the research project, which included interviews, personality and intelligence tests, and experiments.

In one experiment, the volunteers were asked to count photographs in a newspaper. The self-defined "unlucky" people spent about two minutes doing the task. Those who called themselves "lucky" stopped counting almost immediately – when they saw a distinct message on page two that said, "Stop counting – there are 43 photographs." The unlucky people missed it because they were too focussed on counting the photos to notice anything else.

From this and other data, Wiseman concluded that the way self-defined "lucky" people behave and think "makes them far more likely than others to create, notice and act upon chance opportunities in their lives." He also found that lucky people have got more positive expectations than those who are unlucky, and to moreover, even feel lucky that any bad luck they've experienced wasn't as bad as it could have been.

As Wiseman says in his book *The Luck Factor*, "Being in the right place at the right time is actually all about being in the right state of mind."

1 Choose the correct answer.

- The 400 volunteers
 - all read the message about the number of photos in the newspaper.
 - were defined by Wiseman as being "lucky" or "unlucky".
 - saw themselves as being "lucky" or "unlucky".
- Lucky people
 - don't have positive expectations.
 - feel lucky even when bad luck occurs.
 - are lucky mainly due to chance.

2 Answer the question using your own words as far as possible.

How did Richard Wiseman conduct his research on luck?

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3 Rewrite the sentence without changing the original meaning.

Others know that they must do something to be lucky.

Others know that unless.....

.....

4 Choose the best meaning for each word or phrase.

- sums up (line 3)
 - expresses
 - opposes
 - adds
- act upon (line 18)
 - perform for
 - do something about
 - defend against
- being in the right state of mind (line 23)
 - having a positive attitude
 - constantly worrying
 - thinking about being right

5 Write a composition of about 100-120 words. Choose one option.

- Do you agree with Richard Wiseman's theory about luck? Explain your reasons.
- Describe something lucky or unlucky that happened to you or someone you know, and give your opinion about why you think it happened.