

A Stroke of Luck: 4 Idioms About Chance

English learning resource · EN

Key words & expressions · English

4 learning entries

Study task: Listen again and notice the expressions you studied.

1

a stroke of luck

DEF

An unexpected event that brings a helpful or fortunate result.

Use have a stroke of luck or say something was a stroke of luck; it describes an event, not a personality.

Finding two places after a cancellation was a stroke of luck.

It was a stroke of luck that I found my keys before the train left.

2

beginner's luck

DEF

Unexpected success when someone tries an activity for the first time.

Often playful, especially about yourself; saying it about another person can seem to dismiss their skill.

Martin joked that his first bowling strike was beginner's luck.

I won my first chess game, but perhaps it was beginner's luck.

3

down on your luck

DEF

Experiencing a period of difficulties or bad fortune, often involving money or work.

Use be down on your luck with sympathy; it does not judge a person's character or ability.

Our neighbour has been down on his luck since he lost work.

She helped an old friend who was down on her luck.

4

the luck of the draw

DEF

The way chance determines an outcome that you cannot choose.

It need not involve a literal draw; it does need an element of chance, not simply an unwanted result.

Our teams were chosen from a bag, so my partner was the luck of the draw.

Seats were assigned randomly, and getting a window seat was the luck of the draw.

