

A Stroke of Luck: 4 Idioms About Chance

English learning resource · ES

Key words & expressions · English + Spanish

4 learning entries

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

1

a stroke of luck

un golpe de suerte

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.

ES

Un acontecimiento inesperado que trae un resultado beneficioso o afortunado.

Usa have a stroke of luck o di que algo was a stroke of luck; describe un suceso, no una personalidad.

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

Finding two places after a cancellation was a stroke of luck. → Conseguir dos plazas tras una cancelación fue un golpe de suerte.

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

It was a stroke of luck that I found my keys before the train left. → Fue un golpe de suerte encontrar las llaves antes de que saliera el tren.

2

beginner's luck

suerte de principiante

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.

ES

Éxito inesperado al probar una actividad por primera vez.

Suele usarse en broma, especialmente sobre uno mismo; dicho sobre otra persona, puede parecer que menosprecia su habilidad.

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

Martin joked that his first bowling strike was beginner's luck. → Martin bromeó diciendo que su primer pleno en los bolos era suerte de principiante.

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

I won my first chess game, but perhaps it was beginner's luck. → Gané mi primera partida de ajedrez, pero quizá fue suerte de principiante.



3

down on your luck*pasando una mala racha*

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.

ES

Atravesar un periodo de dificultades o mala suerte, a menudo relacionado con el dinero o el trabajo.

Usa be down on your luck con comprensión; no juzga el carácter ni la capacidad de una persona.

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

Our neighbour has been down on his luck since he lost work. → Nuestro vecino está pasando una mala racha desde que perdió trabajo.

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

She helped an old friend who was down on her luck. → Ayudó a una vieja amiga que estaba pasando una mala racha.

4

the luck of the draw*cuestión de azar*

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.

ES

La forma en que el azar determina un resultado que no puedes elegir.

No necesita un sorteo literal, pero sí un elemento de azar; no basta con que el resultado sea indeseado.

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

Our teams were chosen from a bag, so my partner was the luck of the draw. → Los equipos se eligieron sacando nombres de una bolsa, así que mi compañero fue cuestión de azar.

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

Seats were assigned randomly, and getting a window seat was the luck of the draw. → Los asientos se asignaron aleatoriamente y conseguir uno de ventanilla fue cuestión de azar.

