Luck

**Luck is always against the person who depends on it. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**In the Middle Ages having ants in the house was a sign of good luck. *(Uncle John’s Bathroom Reader: Extraordinary Book of Facts, p. 8)***

**Apollo lunar mission 13 was aborted while enroute to the moon in 1970 because of a fuel cell explosion in the service module. The flight left the launching pad at 13:13 (CST) hours military time and the accident occurred on April 13. *(NASA)***

**The artist is extremely lucky who is presented with the worst possible ordeal which will not actually kill him. At that point, he’s in business. *(John Berryman, poet)***

**Good week for: Beginner’s luck, after Wesley Carrington of the U.K. discovered a haul of Roman coins worth $156,000 buried in the woods just 20 minutes after buying his first metal detector. *(The Week magazine, June 21, 2013)***

**We must believe in luck, for how else can we explain the success of those we don’t like? *(Jean Cocteau)***

**"I have said many times, if you ask me, who is the luckiest person I have ever known? I would say Joe Biden. If you ask me, who is the unluckiest I have known? I would say Joe Biden," Ted Kaufman, his long-serving aide, once said in an interview for a Senate oral history. *(The Week magazine, November 20, 2020)***

**In parts of Europe, a black cat crossing your path is considered good luck. *(Don Voorhees, in The Perfectly Useless Book of Useless Information, p. 165)***

**People always call it luck when you’ve acted more sensibly than they have. *(Anne Tyler, novelist)***

**The only sure thing about luck is that it will change. (Bret Harte, American author and journalist)**

**It was in the 1950s that agricultural scientists developed a type of clover that always grew four leaves. Thus, four-leaf clover luck seekers had to look elsewhere for their promise of good fortune. To rabbits’ feet, for example, and horseshoes and such. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The Danes, too, believe the breaking of a mirror portends new luck. But they don’t know what kind, good or bad. They have to wait and see. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**You gotta try your luck at least once a day, because you could be going around lucky all day and not even know it. *(Jimmy Dean)***

**One half of life is luck; the other half is discipline – and that’s the important half, for without discipline you wouldn’t know what to do with your luck. *(Carl Zuckmayer)***

**I think anytime you can affect people in general, in a positive way, then you're a lucky individual. *(Sam Elliott, American actor)***

**New Year’s Day foods eaten for good luck:**

**lobster – by Japanese-Americans**

**herring – by New York German descendents**

**sauerkraut – by Pennsylvania Dutch**

**black-eyed peas and hog jowls – by U.S. southerners**

**twelve grapes – by Latin Americans. *(Discovering America’s Past, Reader’s Digest Association, Richard Scheffel, Project Ed., 1993)***

**Lucky aces? If you have your fortune told with cards, hope hat you are dealt the ace of clubs, which means wealth, health, love, and happiness. The ace of spades can mean death. *(The Diagram Group, in Funky, Freaky Facts, p. 54)***

**Talk about your good luck: On Alaska’s Kenai Peninsula, Ed Martin found more than 1,000 four-leaf clovers on a single day in 2006. *(Samantha Weaver, in Tidbits)***

**Four-leaf clovers are supposed to be lucky, because they’re so scarce. However, in 1924, a dairy in Memphis, whose trademark was a four-leaf clover, advertised a free pint of ice cream to each person who presented one at the company’s office. Fifty thousand were presented on the very first day, and the offer was quickly canceled. The company didn’t go broke, but ice cream in Memphis was in very short supply. The guy who dreamed up the idea never again considered four-leaf clovers lucky. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 235)***

**Diligence is the mother of good luck. *(Benjamin Franklin)***

**A pound of pluck is worth a ton of luck. *(James A. Garfield)***

**Unlucky Break: His words echoing through New York’s Yankee Stadium, Lou Gehrig, 36, declared himself the “luckiest man on the face of the earth,” July 4, 1939. In the wake of his “bad break” – a diagnosis of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis – Gehrig, who had played a record 2,130 consecutive games, was honored by more than 60,000 fans. He died of ALS – now also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease – in 1941. *(Alison McLean, in Smithsonian magazine)***

**I get enough exercise just pushing my luck. *(The PassTime Paper)***

**When Bob Gibson was enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame, Cincinnati Reds manager Pete Rose gave him the ultimate compliment. “Gibson,” said Rose, “has got to be the luckiest pitcher in baseball. He only pitches on the days when the other team doesn’t score any runs.” *(Bits & Pieces)***

**A great man's greatest good luck is to die at the right time. (Eric Hoffer, philosopher)**

**Pliny the Elder, who gave us a lot of information that has turned out to be suspect, advised his friends to be respectful of a horseshoe as it was an efficient protective charm and healing agent. Many English homes in the 1600s displayed horseshoes over the front door to ward off wicked witches. Even Lord Nelson a century later was a believer. He nailed a horseshoe to the mast of his flagship, Victory. Harry Truman nailed one over his office door in the White House, and he is now considered one of our great presidents of the twentieth century. His successor took the horseshoe down. *(Bernie Smith, in The Joy of Trivia, p. 260)***

**“When it rains it pours” wasn’t exactly the line of Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes, but what he said amounted to that: “Ill luck, you know, seldom comes alone.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

**I am a great believer in luck and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it. *(Thomas Jefferson)***

**Nelson: “My Grampa said kissing a bald man’s head brings you luck.” Other boy: “Should I try it?” Nelson: “Sure, go for it.” The other boy then kisses Grandpa’s head while he is sleeping, and Grandpa smacks him with a newspaper. Nelson then says to the other boy: “I can’t remember now if he said it brought good luck or bad luck.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**Yet if you’re unlucky enough to be hit by lightning the odds are that you’d survive. About two out of three victims do – some even from direct hits packing jolts heavy enough to paralyze the nerves and stop the heart. *(Lillian Borgeson, in Catholic Digest)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Good week for: Joan R. Ginther, the luckiest woman in Bishop, Texas, who won $10 million with a Texas lottery scratch-off ticket. She previously won $5.4 million in a 1993 lottery jackpot, $2 million in another scratch-off game in 2006, and $3 million in a 2008 scratch-off. *(The Week magazine, July 16, 2010)***

**Americans spent $50.4 billion on state lottery tickets and video kiosks in 2009. Households with take-home incomes of less than $13,000 spent on average $645 a year on lottery tickets – about 9 percent of their income. Eleven states raise more from lotteries than from corporate taxes. *(Salon.com, as it appeared in The Week magazine, April 26, 2013)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Man: “Some people aren't lucky in love.” Garfield: “Like my Aunt Edna.”Man: “They never find the right one.” Garfield: “She married a hyena.” Man: “But still you hope.” Garfield: “Oh sure, he was a lot of laughs.” *(Jim Davis, in Garfield comic strip)***

**Overheard: “He’s been unlucky in both his marriages. His first wife left him, and his second one won’t.” *(Lane Olinghouse)***

**Success is simply a matter of luck. Ask any failure. *(Earl Wilson)***

**Luck almost always plays some sort of role in an individual’s success. If you want to maximize your luck, follow these rules: Work hard. If you fail, find out why and act accordingly. Avoid negative thoughts and have positive, optimistic ones. Take reasonable risks, and experiment with new opportunities. It’s surprising how lucky you can be if you really try. *(Bits & Pieces) 19016***

**Billy sat obediently as his mother explained how lucky their family was. Then she told him why -- Billy would soon be a big brother. The next day, Billy ran to tell his teacher the good news. “Mrs. T., Mrs. T.!” he yelled. “My mom got lucky last night and now she’s going to have a baby.” *(Charrisa Jones, in Reader’s Digest)***

**When Napoleon’s eagle eye flashed down the list of officers proposed for promotion to generals, he used to scribble in the margin of a name, “Is he lucky?” *(Axel Munthe, in The Story of San Michele)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**1942 pennies are lucky. 1942 thousand-dollar bills are luckier. *(The PassTime Paper)***

**Billy asks Dolly: “How can it be a lucky penny if somebody lost it?” *(Bil Keane, in The Family Circus comic strip)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**When asked to pick a number between one and 10, most people will pick an odd number. And more will pick seven than any other. *(L. M. Boyd)*  
  
Pigs were seen as good luck symbols in the early 1900s, just as four-leaf clovers and horseshoes have been at other times. Unknow the reason why. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Luck is preparation meeting opportunity. *(Bits & Pieces)***

**Good luck charms may lack magical power, but they do seem to provide their owners with a competitive edge, says LiveScience.com. It’s a matter of psychology, rather than wizardry: In a series of experiments, German researchers found that when people carried a lucky charm, they set higher goals and felt more confident than people who left their talismanic coin or favorite stuffed animal at home. In one test, subjects who’d been told a golf ball was “lucky” tended to perform better than those who were simply handed the ball. “Superstitious behavior won’t help you win the lottery,” says psychologist and study co-author Barbara Stoberock. “But it could help you win a sporting event or pass a test.” *(The Week magazine, July 30, 2010)***

**Anybody who isn’t pulling his weight is probably pushing his luck. *(Franklin P. Jones, in Quote magazine)***

**Good luck is what is left over after intelligence and effort have combined at their best. Luck is the residue of design. *(Branch Rickey, baseball great)***

**Lots More Fish in the Sea: More than 100,000 salmon spilled off a truck transporting them from one hatchery to another in Elgin, Oregon, last April. However, luck was on their side. As the truck overturned and their giant tank burst open, almost all the salmon rode the wave of water right into Lookingglass Creek, a waterway that connects with the hatchery they were traveling to. *(Good News Network, as it appeared in Reader’s Digest, September, 2024 issue, on page 28)***

**Drabble: “They posted the playoff schedule for intramural co-ed innertube water polo! Oh, no! Our team is scheduled to play Echo’s team in the first round! The last time I played goalie against Echo’s team, she scored 17 goals against me!” Other man: “She’s pretty good!” Drabble: “Hey, one of those goals was just luck!” *(Kevin Fagan, in Drabble comic strip)***

**Most of those who think they have a lucky number say it’s seven. Don’t know why. Cherokees regarded seven as magic. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**Success is simply a matter of luck. Ask any failure. *(Earl Wilson)***

**I’m not superstitious. I think it brings bad luck. *(Matty Simmons, in The Saturday Evening Post)***

**The only sure thing about luck is that it will change. *(Wilson Mizner)***

**The luck of having talent isn’t enough. You must also have a talent for luck. *(Hector Berlioz, French composer)***

**What started that phobia about the number thirteen? The 13 in attendance at the Last Supper. Plus, 13 is the number of the card of death in a Tarot deck. *(L. M. Boyd)***

**The R.M.S. Titanic: Ruth Becker’s mother awoke when the ship’s engines stopped, and a steward told the family to report on deck. The family ascended five flights of stairs, joining scores of weeping women in all states of dress and undress. Ruth’s mother sent her back to their cabin to retrieve some blankets. When she returned, women and children were being loaded into lifeboats. When Ruth Becker returned to the deck with blankets, she found that her mother and siblings had been loaded onto a lifeboat that was declared “all full” and was being lowered. Her mother screamed in anguish, and an officer picked up Ruth and literally threw her into lifeboat number 13. She was reunited with her family the next day on board the Carpathia. *(Audrey Cunningham, in Tidbits)***

**Grandpa: “You see that old, majestic tree over there?” Nelson: “Uh huh.” Grandpa: “It was there way before I was born, and it’ll be there way after I’m dead and gone. Trees are pretty luck aren’t they?” Nelson: “Sometimes Roscoe uses that tree for a bathroom.” *(Brian Crane, in Pickles comic strip)***

**I was once asked if there were such a thing as luck in trial law. “Yes,” I replied, “but it only comes in the library at three o’clock in the morning.” That holds true for me to this day. You’ll still find me in the library looking for luck at three o’clock in the morning. *(Louis Nizer, attorney and author, in Psychology Today)***

**What’s wrong with Tuesday? Only one out of every 100 people surveyed recently said it was their favorite day. *(L. M. Boyd)***

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**I’ve never had so much luck that I couldn’t use at least a little more. *(Ashleigh Brilliant, in Pot Shots)***

**Husband: “I don’t think we are ever going to win the lottery.” Wife: “Oh, why?” Husband: “Because I used up all my good luck when I met you!” Wife: “Oh, Darling! That’s ok. I’ll win.” *(Chris Browne, in Raising Duncan comic strip)***

***\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\**Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity. *(Elmer Letterman) 1109114***

**Luck is not something you can men0tion in the presence of self-made men. *(E. B. White)***

**Luck is believing you’re lucky. *(Tennessee Williams)***

**In an interview with the press, one of the Arizona lottery’s new millionaires was asked how he had picked his winning numbers. He said that while two of the six numbers he “just pulled from the air for no particular reason,” he used family birth dates for the other four numbers. “So, you see,” he boasted, “winning the lottery is not all just luck.” *(Mary Jane Shoun, in Reader’s Digest)***

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