Winning the Lottery Can Be Stressful

Stress is defined as our body’s reaction to changing events in our lives. We usually think of change as negative, but positive events also produce stress. Here are three stories about people who experienced stress as a result of a positive event – winning the lottery.

**Money demand upsets couple.** John and Susan Patel couldn’t believe their good luck when they won $92 million in their state’s lottery. A short time later, however, they were shocked and upset by a demand from a clerk at the convenience store where they bought their lottery tickets. The clerk shouted angrily that the Patels promised to give her $500,000 as a reward for selling them the winning ticket. John Patel says he pledged to “take care of” the clerk, but he never promised her a specific dollar amount. He also says that right after winning the jackpot, he gave the clerk $20,000.

**No money left for this winner.** Robert Novak, who won almost $14 million in the Pennsylvania state lottery, discovered that it can be very difficult to cope with sudden success. He used the money to start several businesses, including a restaurant and a used-car lot, but they all failed. His own brother tried to steal money from him. Novak’s landlady said that Novak owed her half the lottery money. In the end, a court gave her one-third of Novak’s winnings. By 1999, Novak was broke and stressed out. Without money, he was living with his parents and seeing a doctor for depression.

**Rich man, poor man.** The life of Calvin Ross changed overnight when he won $5.6 million in the lottery. He divorced his wife, bought expensive cars, and spent huge sums of money on gifts for his friends. But because of bad investments and excessive spending, Ross always ran out of money before his $191,000 annual checks arrived every October. He now lives by himself and works to pay off his debts.

Of course, most people who win the lottery say that winning has had a positive effect in their lives. The three stories in this article are unusual. However, they show that even a happy event like winning the lottery may bring about new and stressful problems.
1 Check your understanding

1. Look at the reading tip again. What is the article about?
2. How does this article define stress?
3. According to the article, do people usually have positive or negative ideas about stress? Underline the sentence that answers this question and restate it in your own words.
4. Who won the most money? What problem did they face?
5. Read the last paragraph. Why do you think the author wrote this article?

2 Build your vocabulary

A Find the words in Column 1 in the paragraphs indicated and underline them. For each, find clues in the words around them to guess their meaning. Then match the words with their meanings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Clue</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. produce, ¶1</td>
<td>b. as a result</td>
<td>a. strong request</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. demand, ¶2</td>
<td></td>
<td>b. cause</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. pledged, ¶2</td>
<td></td>
<td>c. huge amount of something</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. jackpot, ¶2</td>
<td></td>
<td>d. without money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. broke, ¶3</td>
<td></td>
<td>e. promise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. excessive, ¶4</td>
<td></td>
<td>f. lottery winnings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B Find each of the following academic words in the article and underline the sentence.

annual defined investments reaction specific

Then, on another piece of paper, copy and complete the chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic word</th>
<th>Phrase or sentence from article</th>
<th>Part of speech</th>
<th>Dictionary definition</th>
<th>My sentence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>annual</td>
<td>before his $191,000 annual checks arrived</td>
<td>adjective</td>
<td>every year</td>
<td>It’s important to get an annual health check-up.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 Talk with a partner

Answer each question with evidence from the reading. Use one of the phrases in the Useful Language box.

1. Why was the paragraph about Calvin Ross called “Rich man, poor man?”
2. Why did Robert Novak end up living with his parents after he won the lottery?
3. Does winning the lottery usually have a positive or negative effect?

Useful Language

Phrases to cite evidence:
The article pointed out . . .
The author states that . . .
4 Analyze the texts

Review the following texts to answer the questions below: (1) Student Book, p. 50, Stress: What You Ought to Know and (2) Extended reading article, Winning the Lottery Can Be Stressful.

1. What is the topic of both articles?

2. Are the definitions of stress the same or different in both articles? Use information from both texts to support your answer.

3. Reread “What are the signs of stress” in Stress: What You Ought to Know. Provide two examples of physical or emotional stress from Winning the Lottery Can Be Stressful.

4. Reread “How can you manage stress” in Stress: What You Ought to Know. Does this paragraph provide solutions to the people in the three stories in Winning the Lottery Can Be Stressful? Why or why not?

5. If you were to win the lottery, do you think it would be stressful? Why or why not? Use evidence from both articles to support your opinion.

5 Before you write

Complete the graphic organizer your teacher gives you. Fill it in with (1) your topic, (2) two examples of how the articles are the same, and (3) two examples of how the articles are different. Use information from Exercises 1–4 and evidence from the two articles. Finally, (4) fill in the conclusion with your answer to question five in Exercise 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic:</th>
<th>Stress: What You Ought to Know</th>
<th>Winning the Lottery Can Be Stressful</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOW THE SAME?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOW DIFFERENT?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conclusion:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6 Write

Write one paragraph that compares and contrasts the two articles that discuss stress. Use the information from your graphic organizer.

7 After you write

A Check your writing. Did you include all the ideas in your graphic organizer?

B Share your writing with a partner.
   a. Take turns. Read your writing to your partner.
   b. Read your partner’s writing to yourself. Compare it to your partner’s graphic organizer.
   c. Comment on your partner’s writing: Ask one question; share one thing you learned.
# Compare / Contrast Graphic Organizer

## Topic:

## Stress: What You Ought to Know | Winning the Lottery Can Be Stressful

### HOW THE SAME?

1. 

2. 

### HOW DIFFERENT?

1. 

2. 

## Conclusion: