

Making Your Own Luck

The Point:

Some job hunters will be luckier than others. What about people that have all the good luck?

So Richard Wiseman, PhD has done serious research regarding the difference between lucky and unlucky people. His conclusion: 10% of life is truly random and 90% is "actually defined by the way you think."

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shinewithgrace.com/2007/07/12/how-lucky-are-you-i-am-a-lucky-magnet/

The Luck Factor A psychologist discovers the secrets to a charmed life. AS THE TITLE SUGGESTS, THE LUCK Factor: Changing Your Luck, Changing Your Life: The Four Essential Principles (Miramax), by Richard Wiseman, PhD, is a self-help book for people on whom pianos tend to fall out of the sky. There are tried-and-true tips like "think outside of the box." There are self diagnostic questionnaires and testimonials from those whose luck has improved. What makes the book interesting, however, are the experiments Wiseman, a former magician who is now a professor of psychology conducted on people who consider themselves either lucky or unlucky.

Wiseman gave lucky and unlucky people impossible puzzles to solve. He administered intelligence tests. He analyzed body language. He secretly scattered money on the sidewalk in front of lucky and unlucky people. The result?

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People who just happen to hear about great jobs, or just happen to meet their true love at the supermarket, turn out on closer inspection to be the sort who repeatedly take the small risk of striking up a conversation with a stranger. If they get shot by a random bullet, they say "Thank God it only hit my arm--maybe I'll meet a cute doctor." (Or even, "Hey maybe I can sue someone.") Junk mail and spam be damned; no form promising a free trip to paradise goes un-filled-out by the lucky. If you're not in, Wiseman says, you can't win.

As for the sidewalk money? The people who described themselves as lucky actually did find the cash, apparently because they were relaxed enough to pay attention as they walked. The unluckies stepped right over it, perhaps because they were scanning the sky for plummeting Steinways. Imagine that! And there you were, thinking that those who walk the streets with their eyes cast downward must be terribly terribly sad. So look down, friend; things are sure to look up tomorrow.

[<http://gutsywriter.blogspot.com/2009/01/how-to-get-lucky-smile.html>](http://gutsywriter.blogspot.com/2009/01/how-to-get-lucky-smile.html)

Related blog entry: How to Get Lucky: Smile.

Do you believe that some people are born lucky and others not? According to Richard Wiseman <http://www.richardwiseman.com/>, PhD, Professor at the University of Herfordshire in England, "Luck is not a magical ability or a gift from the gods." In his book, The Luck Factor, Wiseman claims that luck is "a way of thinking and behaving." Wiseman actually argues that 10% of life is truly random and that 90% is "actually defined by the way you think." I believe Wiseman, and have a story to prove it.