

Lottery Losers

ANSWERS ON PAGE 41

The stories of some very unlucky winners.



1 Pre-reading

What would you do if you won the lottery? Choose from the ideas below.

- go on a cruise buy a new house
- buy a new car move abroad
- give some of it to friends
- buy lots of jewellery
- buy lots of nice clothes
- give some of it to charity
- have a big party Other?

2 Reading I

Read the article once. Which things from the previous activity are mentioned?

3 Reading II

Read the article again. Then, write either Michael or Nigel next to each sentence.

1. He bought a BMW.
2. He was sent to prison for 12 months.
3. He won £9.7 million.
4. He bought a £300,000 house.
5. He used to be in the Royal Air Force.
6. He had spent all the money by 2010.
7. He used to be a rubbish collector.
8. He won £3.4 million.

4 Language focus

About to...

Look at the extract from the article on this page, "...who claimed they were about to lose their home..."

The writer has used the expression *about to*. Remember, if you are "about to" do something, you're going to do it very soon. Complete the sentences with the words from below.

- animals arrest give
- photograph

1. The photographer is about to take a _____.
2. The zoo keeper is about to feed the _____.
3. The police officer is about to _____ the criminal.
4. The teacher is about to _____ the lesson.

What would you do if you won the lottery? Hopefully you wouldn't do anything as **careless** as these lottery losers!

Michael Carroll is known as the Lotto **Lout**. He won a £9.7 million **jackpot** in 2002 at the age of just 19. Unfortunately, the former **rubbish collector** literally **threw the money down the drain**. After winning the **cash**, Michael bought four houses, a holiday villa in Spain, two convertible BMWs, a couple of Mercedes-Benz cars, several quad bikes and lots of **jewellery**. He also spent £10,000 on a BMW Z3 that he lent to someone and then forgot about, and £50,000 on a **huge**, two-day party, as well as giving £37,035 to friends who claimed they were about to lose their home, and paying £70,000 to **bail** his mum **out of jail**.



Incredibly, by 2010, Michael had spent all the money and was claiming **job seeker's allowance**. He also had to apply for his old job picking up other people's rubbish.



Another lottery winner ended up in jail. Former Royal Air Force (RAF) pilot Nigel Gardner-Hale left his job in 2000 after discovering he'd won £3.4 million on the lottery. He bought a £300,000 house complete with an **indoor swimming pool** where he organised parties **attended** by people he didn't know. But a few months later, he was **arrested** after **hosting a drug-fuelled party** at his home. So, he had to serve a year in prison before he could continue spending his winnings. During the **trial**, his **lawyer** said, "Nigel accepts the party got out of control. He's a young man of 30 years but his life has changed considerably. Until his lottery win, he had a **remarkable** career in the RAF. His report makes reference to his team **spiritedness**, popularity and **suitability** for promotion – he **shone** in every area."



GLOSSÁRIO

- careless** *adj* descuidado
- a lout** *n* uma pessoa pouco sofisticada
- the jackpot** *n* o prêmio principal
- rubbish** *n* lixo
- a rubbish collector** *n* um lixeiro
- a drain** *n* um ralo
- to throw down the drain** *exp* desperdiçar
- cash** *n* dinheiro vivo
- jewellery** *n* joias
- huge** *adj* muito grande, gigantesco
- jail** *n* cadeia, prisão
- to bail someone out of jail** *exp* pagar fiança para liberar alguém da prisão
- a job** *n* um emprego
- to seek** *vb* procurar
- job seeker's allowance** *exp* seguro-desemprego
- an indoor pool** *vb* uma piscina coberta
- to attend** *exp* frequentar
- to arrest** *vb* prender
- to host a party** *exp* dar uma festa
- drug-fuelled** *adj* movida a drogas
- a trial** *n* um julgamento
- a lawyer** *n* um advogado
- remarkable** *adj* notável, extraordinário
- spiritedness** *n* animação, vivacidade
- suitability** *n* adequabilidade
- to shine** *vb* brilhar, destacar-se
- waste** *n* desperdício

What a **waste!** ❗