

## Just a bit of fun?

WORKSHEET A

### David

Lotteries are for idiots. I can't believe it when I hear people say they need to find out the results of the National Lottery to see if they've won or not – don't they know what the chances of winning a lot of money really are? You've got more chance of being struck by lightning.

And anyway, if you did win loads of money, would it really make you happy? There are lots of lottery winners who become unhappy – for example, couples who split up because they start arguing about how to spend the money, and people whose friends desert them because they expected to be given some of the money and became angry when they didn't get as much as they wanted.

### Jim

I play the National Lottery now and again. It's just a bit of harmless fun, isn't it? You enjoy waiting for the draw even though you know you'll probably never win anything.

One very good thing about the National Lottery is the money it raises for good causes – without it, hundreds of community projects would have less money.

In general I don't think the government should try to stop people gambling. It's something people in many parts of the world have done for hundreds of years, and they'll probably never stop. In Britain there's a minimum legal age for almost all kinds of gambling, which is sensible. You have to be eighteen to bet on football or horse racing, for example, so the people who do it are adults. They're old enough to make their own decisions. If they get into debt, it's their fault – you can't blame the bookmakers or the government.

### Mary

People can easily become addicted to gambling, which is why it's so dangerous. I think most kinds of gambling should be made illegal. I've heard about lots of people who've got into debt by betting on sport, playing poker online, or going to casinos. Usually they're quite poor, and therefore can't afford it, but once they've started they just can't stop.

One thing I find shocking in Britain is that there's no minimum legal age for playing on some kinds of fruit machine. These machines might seem like just a bit of fun, but for some young kids it might be the beginning of an addiction.

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WORKSHEET B

### Exercise 1

Decide for which of the three people (David, Jim, Mary) the following statements are true.

1. They mention more than one kind of gambling.
2. They mention a lottery.
3. They mention something bad that can happen to people who gamble.
4. They say the laws about gambling should change.

### Exercise 2

Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F), or if the text doesn't say (D).

1. Jim doesn't know anyone who has ever won any money on the National Lottery.
2. David doesn't think that winning a lot of money always makes people happier.
3. Mary has never played on a fruit machine.
4. Mary thinks people who gamble are usually rich.
5. David has never played the National Lottery.
6. Mary thinks all gambling should be illegal.
7. Jim thinks it is good that in Britain there is a minimum legal age for almost all kinds of gambling.
8. Jim sometimes wins money through gambling.

### Exercise 3

Answer the questions below.

1. What different kinds of gambling are mentioned in the text?
2. What does Jim say the National Lottery gives money to?
3. What does David compare the chances of winning a lot of money on the National Lottery to?
4. Why does Mary think fruit machines are dangerous?
5. What are Jim's two arguments against the idea of the government trying to stop people gambling?

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WORKSHEET C

## Exercise 4

Fill in the gaps to complete the text.

### David

Lotteries are for (1) **id** \_ \_ **t** \_ . I can't believe it when I hear people say they need to find out the results of the National Lottery to see if they've won or not – don't they know what the chances of winning a lot of money really are? You've got more chance of being struck by (2) **lig** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ **g** .

And anyway, if you did win (3) **l** \_ \_ **ds** of money, would it really make you happy? There are lots of lottery winners who become unhappy – for example (4) **c** \_ \_ **pl** \_ \_ who (5) **sp** \_ \_ **t** \_ **p** because they start arguing about how to spend the money, and people whose friends (6) \_ \_ **sert** them because they expected to be given some of the money and became angry when they didn't get as much as they wanted.

### Jim

I play the National Lottery (7) \_ \_ **w** **and** **a** \_ \_ \_ **n** . It's just a bit of (8) **h** \_ \_ \_ **less** fun, isn't it? You enjoy waiting for the (9) \_ **r** \_ **w** even though you know you'll probably never win anything.

One very good thing about the National Lottery is the money it raises for good (10) \_ **aus** \_ \_ – without it, hundreds of community projects would have less money. In general I don't think the government should try to stop people gambling. It's something people in many parts of the world have done for hundreds of years, and they'll probably never stop. In Britain there's a (11) **min** \_ \_ **u** \_ legal age for almost all kinds of gambling, which is (12) \_ **e** \_ \_ **ible** . You have to be eighteen to bet (13) \_ \_ football or horse racing, for example, so the people who do it are adults. They're old enough to make their own decisions. If they get into debt, it's their (14) **f** \_ \_ \_ **t** – you can't (15) **bl** \_ \_ \_ the bookmakers or the government.

### Mary

People can easily become (16) **add** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ **o** gambling, which is why it's so dangerous. I think most kinds of gambling should be made (17) **il** \_ \_ \_ \_ **l** . I've heard about lots of people who've got into debt by betting on sport, playing poker online, or going to casinos. Usually they're quite poor, and therefore can't (18) **af** \_ \_ \_ **d** it, but once they've started they just can't stop.

One thing I find (19) **sh** \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ **g** in Britain is that there's no minimum legal age for playing on some kinds of fruit machine. These machines might seem like just a bit of fun, but for some young kids it might be the beginning of an (20) \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ **ion** .