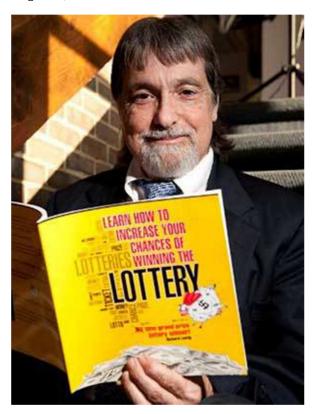
Tips on How to Win Tonight's \$425 Million Powerball From a 7-Time Grand Prize Winner



by Ashleigh Schmitz, Editorial Assistant August 7, 2013



When it comes to getting advice on winning the lottery, we'll take ours from the man who's won 7 grand prizes.

Richard Lustig doesn't know exactly what his total earnings over the last 25 years have been, but easily estimates he's won in the millions of dollars. With that kind of luck we just had to ask: how does he do it?!

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Lustig began playing the lottery when it came to Florida about 25 years ago and, just like everyone else, he was losing. Rather than settle for losing tickets he sat down and began to think of ways he could increase his chances of winning. He kept using the strategies that worked and quickly tossed those that didn't. While he doesn't win a \$100,000 grand prize every day he does admit to winning money everyday—that's enough proof for us that he knows

something we don't. Here are a few of his tried-and-true tips. Who knows, maybe you'll get lucky with tonight's \$425

million Powerball drawing.

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Only Play What You Can Afford

Lustig's first piece of advice is common sense. He says not to worry about what other people are spending, and definitely don't dip into rent, grocery or other money you need to live on. If you can only afford \$10 this week, that's

fine. But be sure to use Lustig's next few tips to put that \$10 to its best use.

Don't Buy Quick Picks

When it comes to ball games, like tonight's Powerball, don't let the computer generate your numbers. According to Lustig, it's very foolish. He says when you allow the computer to randomly select your numbers you have a 1 in 175 million chance of winning. Those aren't very good odds. Instead, pick your own numbers and always play them. Lustig says the week you decide to change your numbers or opt out of the drawing will inevitably be the week those are the winning digits. It may sound a little superstitious, but it does put the odds in your favor. Lustig goes into more detail in his book, Learn to Increase Your Chances of Winning the Lottery, on how to pick the right numbers for ball

games.

Buy the Right Scratch Tickets

According to Lustig most people buy their scratch tickets the wrong way. First off, be sure you're following his first tip and only spending what you can afford. Then, with that money, make sure that you buy ten tickets in a row in a single game. Don't buy of few of this and a few of that-Lustig says that's just wasting money. The trick is to buy increments of ten, but be absolutely sure they are in a consecutive row. If that means the clerk needs to open a new roll of tickets, insist on it. Lustig swears that in a row of ten consecutive tickets there will be at least one winner. When he was doing a spot on the Rachael Ray Show they bought 125 consecutive tickets for the whole studio audience, including Rachael and Lustig. Just to prove that his theory works everyone scratched their ticket at the same time and the audience had 17 winners, and as luck would have it Lustig was one of them! On an editorial note, I took this tip to task yesterday after work and purchased 10 consecutive tickets and wouldn't you know if four (yes, four!) of the ten of them were winners.

Lottery Pools Will Increase Your Odds of Winning

If your office, PTA or other group participates in a lottery pool you'd be wise to participate. As Lustig sees it, you only increase your odds. If you have a \$10 budget, joining a larger group where all 20 of you pitch in with \$10, your odds just multiplied by 20. And while, yes you'll split the pot, Lustig says "a piece of the pie is better than no pie at all."

What are your tips for winning the lottery?