

Luck

Week 1

"The only thing that overcomes hard luck is hard work."
Harry Golden, Jewish-American humorist

Translation for Adults

Life isn't always fair. Sometimes, you are dealt a hand that you simply don't deserve. When you experience bad luck, either you can worry about it, and hope your luck will change, or you can take action. Even if you don't feel responsible for your lack of luck, nothing will change unless you put forth the effort to change it yourself. You can spend your whole life hoping your luck will change, but if you bring about the change yourself, then the reward will not only come to you sooner, but will be much more gratifying.

Translation for Kids

Did you ever think that you were unlucky? Maybe you thought you had studied hard, but still received a few bad grades. You can either feel sorry for yourself or you can work that much harder to improve your grades, or make any unlucky situation better. Do all of your homework, study harder for your tests and behave better in class, and you'll make your own luck. You can't always expect good luck just because you think you deserve it. Thinking you are unlucky won't solve your problems. Work harder, and you can overcome bad luck.

Class Discussion for Kids

1. When did you feel unlucky?
2. How could hard work help you change your luck?

Week 2

"I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work the more I have of it."

Thomas Jefferson, 3rd President of the United States

Translation for Adults

Luck is a fantasy because good fortune is the result of hard work, and often comes only to those who are willing to work for it. You can wish that you were as lucky as successful people appear to be, or you can learn from their examples that hard work is what propelled them to their leadership. Successful people don't depend on luck to achieve their goals. If you wait for luck to come your way, then you could be waiting forever. The only way to create your successful future is to put in the work that's required to achieve it.

Translation for Kids

Do you think that others are lucky because they receive excellent grades, or seem to learn new martial arts moves easily, for example? Luck has nothing to do with their success. You can be sure that they worked very hard to earn those grades or show those moves. They must study every day, do all their homework and pay attention in class. You must work just as hard to earn your Black Belt. Those who become Black Belts don't rely on luck; they go to every class, practice at home and are dedicated to their goal. You can't depend on luck, either; you must work hard to make your own luck.

Class Discussion for Kids

1. Who do you know that you think is successful because of luck?
2. Does that person wait for luck to be successful or do they work hard?

WORDS OF THE WEEK

MOTIVATIONAL LESSONS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Week 3

"Luck is believing you're lucky."

Tennessee Williams, 20th Century
American playwright

Translation for Adults

So much of what happens during your life is determined by your attitude. If you're unhappy at work, then it could be because you have a negative attitude; and you continue to work that job simply to make a living. That unhappiness could also be a sign that you should be in a different career. The right attitude can help you turn problems into opportunities. The same can be said for the concept of luck. If you believe that you are lucky, then you are likely to experience good luck. If you go into a job interview thinking you won't receive the job, then you are less likely to be hired. Be positive, and you won't need luck to achieve your goals.

Translation for Kids

If you have the right attitude, then you will probably seem to be lucky. If you have a negative attitude, and think that you will never earn your Black Belt, no matter how hard you work, then you probably won't. With a positive attitude, you can turn a problem into an opportunity. For example, you might think you're unlucky when you receive a bad grade on a test. Be positive, and use that situation as an opportunity to improve your grades. Your grades reveal which subjects you must study harder. Once you focus on those subjects, then your grades, and your luck, will improve.

Class Discussion for Kids

1. How does having a positive attitude make you lucky?
2. Why is it important to be positive, even in bad situations?

Week 4

"Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity."

Seneca, Roman philosopher and statesman

Translation for Adults

Occasionally, you'll experience pure luck, without any work or preparation. For example, you find a twenty-dollar bill on the street or you're able to buy the last CD at the store that your spouse wants for his or her birthday. More important events in your life, such as career promotions or job opportunities, can be attributed to more than just luck. You may think you were lucky to be hired for a new job, but it's more likely you were selected because you have the best qualifications, and took the initiative to schedule and prepare well for your interview. You'll produce your own luck by being prepared for good opportunities, and not being afraid to take advantage of them.

Translation for Kids

Pure luck is when you find money on the street, but the important goals in your life, such as earning your Black Belt, never happen because of just pure luck. Earning your Black Belt and or an A on a test is not luck. These accomplishments take plenty of hard work and preparation. You must go to every class and practice every day to earn your Black Belt. You must read textbooks and study class notes to prepare for a test. You have been given the opportunity to earn your Black Belt and receive an education. By taking advantage of these opportunities, and being prepared for the challenges you'll face, you'll create your own "luck."

Class Discussion for Kids

1. How do you create your own luck?
2. Why is it important to be prepared for and take advantage of good opportunities?