


28

Powerball

The aim of this lesson is to make the students use the key vocabulary and target expressions in a more natural manner.

Language Point

Three numbers in a row	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- three numbers consecutively- three consecutive numbers- three in sequential order
What are you talking about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Don't be silly.- Are you serious?- Nonsense!- What?
You gotta be in it to win it!	

Key vocabulary

Powerball	strike	stop in	in a row
odds	take it seriously	exasperated	get lucky

I. INTRODUCTION

Powerball, an American lottery, has drawn the attention of many because of its **tempting jackpot**. In the hope of becoming **instant millionaires**, people buy a Powerball ticket and choose **6 possible winning numbers**. Lucky winners can choose whether to claim the money in **installments** or in a **lump sum payment**.



II. PRESENTATION

A. Expressions

	Questions:
Three numbers in a row	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Have you ever played Powerball before?
What are you talking about?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Given the low probability of winning the lottery, why do people still play it?
You gotta be in it to win it!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">How often do you play the lottery? What about other games such as Bingo, Scratch games, horse racing to gamble?

B. Dialogue

Practice the dialogue with your teacher.

Ross: Let's stop in this store. We have to buy Powerball tickets for tonight. The jackpot is up to \$275 million!

Claudia: That's a total waste of money. The chances of winning are so low. You have a better chance of being struck by lightning.

Ross: "You gotta be in it to win it!" Let's do it.

Claudia: Okay, but you pick the numbers.

Ross: Let's each pick three numbers. Mine are 42, 57, and the Powerball number 11.

Claudia: I choose 16, 17, 18.

Ross: Why did you choose three numbers in a row? Now we'll never win!

Claudia: What are you talking about? The odds are the same no matter what. You asked me to pick, so I picked!

Ross: Yes, but I thought you would take it seriously.

Claudia: (*exasperated*) Who says I'm not taking it seriously? Numbers are numbers! Can you go stand outside now please?

Ross: Why?

Claudia: Maybe I'll get lucky and you'll be struck by lightning!

Q & A!



- Do you believe in "beginner's luck"?
- Is gambling legal in Japan?
- At what age do people generally start to gamble?

Part 2

III. PRACTICE

Use the newly learned vocabulary and expressions in the following practice exercises.

A. Let's Play!

Directions: Have you ever played these games before?
Explain how they work to your teacher.



Bingo



Poker



Scratch Game



Slot Machine

B. Let's Talk!

Directions: What will you do in the following situations?

1. You are at a casino to have fun. However, you notice that a group of men is trying to **con** a **naïve**-looking player who is winning a lot.

What will you do?

- a. Leave. I don't want to become **entangled** in their mess.
- b. Join the **swindlers**. Who knows, I might get a share afterwards.
- c. **Be a good Samaritan and intervene**. It is against my principles to leave those who are in need.

2. You win the Powerball jackpot. What will you do with the money?

- a. I will build my own business and recruit people who are unemployed.
- b. I will travel around the world, including to Antarctica.
- c. I will donate half of the winnings to a charity.

3. You found a lottery ticket which has the winning numbers for today. You have tried looking for its rightful owner but no one seems to care.

What will you do next?

- a. I won't claim the prize because the ticket is not mine.
- b. I am satisfied with what I have so I will give the ticket to someone who is in need of money.
- c. I will claim the prize. **Finders keepers**.

C. Role-Play

Role-Play



You want to try betting on the Powerball.
Share with your teacher which 6 numbers
you would choose and why.

Use the vocabulary and expressions you have learned.