



Reading and Speaking

B1

If I won the lottery, I would...

Read Clarissa's diary entry.

It's after 11 p.m. on Saturday night, a night like any other Saturday night. I am ready for bed and with little hope, I tune in to the drawing of the state lottery numbers on TV. A quick glance at the numbers tells me that I wasted another...

Wait a minute! The numbers on my ticket match. I've just won the lottery!

I scream, jump up and down and hug whoever is at home with me. I've won the lottery! My life is about to change in a dramatic way, once I catch my breath...

I start to ask myself: "Now what? What would I do?". A million thoughts flow through my mind.

"I would spend more time shopping, getting spa treatments and eating sushi. Yes, that's my first thought! But speaking seriously: I would be generous with my friends and my family. I would also donate some of my winnings to charity. One of the first things I would do, would be to give everyone in my family the maximum amount possible, so that there wouldn't be any debts for anyone anymore. Everybody would be happy.

Here's what I would do for myself: I would travel more and buy a house on the beach. I would visit my long distance friends more frequently. Of course, I would also buy a new home in London and a great car at some point. I would experience amazing things with people I care about. I think I would learn to concentrate a little more on my own personal sense of well-being, it would make me more pleasant to be around. I would smile more and would do small "acts of kindness". Bit by bit, the world would become a better place.

I would spend the first month of my new life assembling a team of financial advisors, thinking about safe, low-risk investments such as municipal bonds. I would keep the winnings in the bank...each year I would take what I need to live comfortably, and the rest I would invest in other people and companies who know what they are doing about saving the planet. I'm not sure what I would do with my free time."

But... my lottery ticket has just begun floating in a bowl of melted ice cream. Wait. That can't be normal. What's going on? On no... it's all been a dream!

Exercises

1) What would Clarissa do if she won the lottery? Circle the T for True and the F for False.

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| 1. She would go to see her friends living far from her. | T | F |
| 2. She would spend every last penny. | T | F |
| 3. She would live exciting and interesting experiences with her friends. | T | F |
| 4. She would save her family from debt. | T | F |
| 5. She would give the money to people who are able to save the planet. | T | F |
| 6. She would give it all away. | T | F |



2) Rank your choices from number 1 to 10, from the most to the least likely or important to you.

If I won the lottery...

- ...I would adopt orphaned children ()
- ...I would give all the money away ()
- ...I would pay to become a space tourist ()
- ...I would spend every last penny ()
- ...I would travel around the world ()
- ...I would keep it a secret and not change my spending habits ()
- ...I would move to another country ()
- ...I would start my own business ()
- ...I would quit work and never go back ()
- ...I would buy something extravagant (e.g. shoes, fancy car, motorcycle...) ()

3) Now, compare your ranking to your classmate's. Is it the same or is it very different? Discuss and explain your choices.