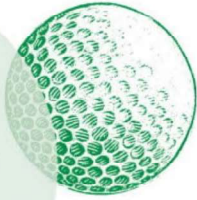


4 SPEAKING

- a Read the questions and think about your answers.
- 1 Look at some quotes about luck. Do you think they are true?

“The more I practice, the luckier I get.”

Gary Player, golf player



“You’ve got to think lucky. If you fall into a mud hole, check your back pocket – you might have caught a fish.”

Darrell Royal,
American football coach



“You never know what worse luck your bad luck has saved you from.”

Cormac McCarthy, writer



“If you have two friends in your lifetime, you’re lucky. If you have one good friend, you’re more than lucky.”

Susan Hinton, writer



- 2 Do you consider yourself in general to be a lucky person? Why (not)?
 - 3 Can you remember a time when you were either very lucky or very unlucky? What happened?
 - 4 Do you know anyone who you think is particularly lucky or unlucky? Why?
- b In groups of three or four, discuss your answers. Give as much detail as possible.

5 READING & LISTENING

- a Think of some very successful people, e.g., business people, musicians, sports stars. Which of these three things do you think was probably most important in making them successful: a) talent b) hard work c) luck?
- b Read the article *A question of luck?* about a book by Malcolm Gladwell, and answer the questions.
- 1 What three factors does he think being successful really depends on?
 - 2 Why is it an advantage for sports players to be born in the first months of the year in some countries?
 - 3 What is the 10,000 hours theory?
- c 5 6)) Now listen to two other examples Gladwell mentions, The Beatles and Bill Gates. What two main reasons does he give for their extraordinary success?



- d Listen again and answer the questions.

THE BEATLES

- 1 Where did they play and between which years?
- 2 Where did the club owner usually get bands from?
- 3 How much did they have to play?
- 4 How many times had they performed live by 1964?

BILL GATES

- 5 When did his school start a computer club?
 - 6 Why was this unusual?
 - 7 What did he and his friends do on weekends?
 - 8 How many hours did he spend at the computer club every week?
- e What do you think? Answer these questions with a partner.
- 1 Do you agree that luck and practice are just as important as talent? Is luck more important than practice or the other way around?
 - 2 Think of something you are moderately good at or very good at. Were you lucky to be able to have the opportunity to start doing it? How many hours do you think you have spent practicing it? Do you think you have spent more hours doing it than other people you know?

A question of luck?

What is the question we always ask about successful people? We want to know what they're like – what kind of personalities they have, or how intelligent they are, or what kind of lifestyles they have, or what special talents they might have been born with. And we assume that it is those personal qualities that explain how that individual gets to the top of his or her profession.

But according to Malcolm Gladwell, in his book *Outliers*, we are asking the wrong questions. He thinks that while talent is obviously a factor, there are two other more important ones that make a person successful. The first of these factors is luck.



He begins with the example of sports players. In recent research done on various groups of elite ice hockey players from Canada and the Czech Republic, one fascinating fact came to light. In both countries, it was discovered that 40% of the players on the top teams were born between January and March, 30% between April and June, 20% between July and September, and only 10% between October and December. The explanation was simple. The school year in these countries runs from January to December. A boy who is ten on January 2nd will be in the same class as one whose 10th birthday is on December 30th. The chances are the first boy will be bigger, stronger, and more coordinated. He is much more likely than the other boy to be chosen to play on junior teams. He will then get better coaching than the others, and will play many more games, so will also get more practice. In the beginning, his advantage isn't so much that he is more talented, simply that he is older. He was lucky enough to be born in the first months of the year. But by the age of 13 or 14, with the extra coaching and practice, he really will be better than the others, and far more likely to be successful.

The extra practice is vital, because the second factor that Gladwell believes is of great importance in determining whether somebody is going to be successful or not is what he calls the "10,000 hours theory." This theory, based on studies in many different fields, says that in order to get to the very top you need to put in 10,000 hours of practice, whether it is playing an instrument or a sport, or programming a computer.

6 VOCABULARY

making adjectives and adverbs

One of these is **luck**, for example being **lucky** enough to be in the right place at the right time.

- a Look at the **bold** words in the sentence above. Which is a noun and which is an adjective? Using the word *luck*, can you make...?
- 1 a negative adjective
 - 2 a positive adverb
 - 3 a negative adverb
- b ➤ **p.163 Vocabulary Bank** *Word building.* Do Part 2.

7 WRITING

- a Read the rules for the sentence game.

The **sentence** game

- 1 You should write correct sentences with the exact number of words given (contractions count as one word).
- 2 The sentences must make sense.
- 3 You should include a form of the word given (e.g., if the word is *luck*, you can use *lucky*, *luckily*, etc.).

- b Work in teams of three or four. Play the sentence game. You have five minutes to write the following sentences.
- 1 **fortune** (11 WORDS)
 - 2 **comfort** (9 WORDS)
 - 3 **luck** (7 WORDS)
 - 4 **care** (6 WORDS)
 - 5 **patience** (12 WORDS)
- c Your teacher will tell you if your sentences are correct. The team with the most correct sentences is the winner.

8 (5 9)) SONG Karma 🎵