

Common Gambling Myths

Myth: If I keep gambling, my luck will change and I'll win back the money I've lost.

Reality: Each time you place a bet, the outcome is not affected by the outcomes that have come before. This means that the odds are no more in your favor on the tenth bet than they were on the first bet. Over time, the more you risk, the more you'll lose.

Myth: I almost won; I must be due for a win.

Reality: "Almost" winning in no way means that a real win is around the corner. Future gambling outcomes are NOT influenced by previous outcomes.

Myth: If I play more than one slot machine or in more than one poker game at a time, I'll increase my chances of winning.

Reality: Sure, you may win more often by playing two slot machines or computer poker games at a time, but make no mistake, you'll also spend and ultimately lose more money. Remember, since the odds are in the house's favor, the more you gamble, the more you'll lose.

Myth: I have a special strategy that helps me win. I pick certain numbers for the lottery and press the stop button on a slot machine at exactly the right time.

Reality: The outcome of most games of chance, particularly lotteries and slot machines, is completely random. You cannot influence the results, regardless of what you do. For lotteries, this means that betting the same numbers every week won't help you win any more than betting different numbers will. Further, it doesn't matter how many people have purchased tickets or what numbers you play—the odds are the same. Whether you win playing slot machines is based solely on the randomly drawn results generated by the machine's computer. The game's outcome is determined by the random output of the computer even before the reels stop spinning. Pressing the stop button only gives you the results more quickly, but it won't influence the outcome in any way.

Myth: I have a feeling that today is my lucky day. I just know I'm going to win.

Reality: Hoping, wishing or even needing to win money has absolutely no influence on the outcome of a game of chance.

Myth: If I see a certain card coming up frequently in a poker game, I should bet on it because chances are it will come up again very soon.

Reality: There are 2.6 million possible hands in a deck of 52 cards. Since each hand is independent of the hands that have come before, the chance of one card coming up again once it's already appeared is no more (or less) likely than that of any other card.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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