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Secrets to winning the lotto?



Cape Coral, Fla. - An Orlando man says he knows the secrets to winning the lottery.

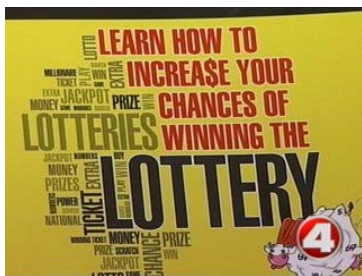
"We live in a big fancy house, we go on cruises," said Richard Lustig, a seven-time Florida lotto grand prize winner. "Has it changed my life? Absolutely."

Lustig has raked in over \$1 million playing the Florida lotto. He says it's all about increasing your odds.

"My son is a teenager," he said. "I bought him his first car. Guess what he's driving? A Beamer."

After taking home seven jackpots, he's now living it up. But don't ask Lustig about luck.

"Luck has absolutely nothing to do with it," he said in an interview at Fox 4's studios. "How can anybody in their right mind say this guy's won seven times he's just a lucky guy? Come on. Nobody can be that lucky."



Lottery Book

His winnings include an \$840,000 Mega Money jackpot and recently a \$98,000 Fantasy Five Grand Prize.

Lustig says it's all thanks to a system he's perfected designed to increase your odds of winning. He even wrote a book about it, which costs \$40.



Scratch ticket secrets

Lustig is spilling some of his secrets and he's starting with scratch tickets. He says there's one mistake everyone makes.

"They say to the clerk, 'Let me see here let me take one of those and I'll take two of those,'" said Lustig. "You might as well put on a blindfold take a loaded gun and try to hit the target it's not gonna happen."

Instead he says research the games on the [Florida Lottery Web site](#). There you can find out which games still have grand prizes left - and Lustig suggests buying 10 in a row of the same game.

What about holiday or Christmas-themed scratch tickets, do they have better odds?

"No...they're all the same," said Lustig. "Don't pick a game because of the title...or you like the color on the card or you like to play Bingo or whatever. You buy the ticket that has the most grand prizes still left out there to find."

Lustig says even your losing scratch tickets can become winners. That's because some games have what's called "second chance drawings."

Not many people know about those drawings or take the time to mail their losing tickets in - which boosts your odds, according to Lustig.

Lottery drawing secrets

"I don't want to get into too much detail about the ball games," said Lustig, who wanted to keep some secrets in his book.

"But here's a big, big tip which is going to shock a lot of people," he said. "Do not play quick picks. Quick pick does not increase your odds of winning."

So how do you increase your chances of guessing the numbers right, since the balls are drawn at random?

Lustig wouldn't answer that, instead saying you'll have to read his book to find out the answer. But he says it doesn't matter what numbers you pick, like scratch tickets, it's how you play them.

"Luck has nothing to do with it," he said. "I stress it 100 percent."

But sometimes luck can help. Fox 4 went with Lustig to a convenience store where bought seven \$20 scratch tickets, whipping out a wad of \$100 bills.

He picked "Billion Dollar Blockbuster," because at the time there were 90 grand prizes left.

After several losing attempts, he found a \$40 winner.

"OK so we spent \$140," said Lustig. "We lost \$100. That's the way it goes sometimes."

To be fair, Lustig only bought seven tickets, not 10, because the store ran out of tickets. While there are no guarantees, Lustig says it's all about strategy.

The \$40 he got back will go back to buying more tickets.

For this professional lottery player, the goal is to find a grand prize and add one more to his list.

[Richard Lustig's Web site](#)
[Florida Lottery](#)

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