

🍀 English expressions with LUCK 🍀



- good luck/bad luck
- with some luck, with any luck, with a little luck
- to be in luck
- any luck?
- as luck would have it
- tough luck
- be down on your luck
- the best of luck
- better luck next time
- for luck
- good luck charm
- good luck to somebody
- just my/somebody's luck
- the luck of the draw
- no such luck
- push your luck
- try your luck

In this PDF you will learn more than 20 different ways to use the English noun LUCK in natural conversation. If you want to learn English, you're IN LUCK!

Luck [meaning](#)

Oxford Learner's Dictionaries dot com lists 2 uses for the noun luck.

1 good things that happen to you by chance, not because of your own efforts or abilities

2 chance; the force that causes good or bad things to happen to people

Definition #1 only has a positive feeling. This is common when we want to encourage or support someone. We might say "Lots of luck" to a friend or family member to support them. The word **luck** has no adjectives in front of it, good luck or bad luck, but it is understood as positive.

Here are a few ways it is used in English conversation. In all these examples the meaning of **luck** is good.

We often say **with some luck**, **with any luck**, **with a little luck** to show we have a chance of success at something.

I have to finish this big assignment before Wednesday. It's almost done and **with some luck** I think I can have it ready.

With a little luck there won't be heavy traffic tonight and we can get home early.

We're playing the top ranked team tomorrow. It will be a hard game but **with a little luck** we can beat them.

To be **in luck** = lucky

A: I forgot to pack a sweater for tonight. It will get cold after dark.

B: You're **in luck**, I have my brother's sweater in my car. You can wear it tonight, I think he's about the same size as you.

= You are lucky because I have an extra sweater that you can wear.

The opposite of **in luck** is **out of luck**.

A: Are there any donuts left? I saw 2 big boxes this morning in the break room.

B: Sorry Clark, you're **out of luck**. They're all gone. Try to get here earlier tomorrow.

= There are no donuts for you. Unlucky.



To have no **luck** means to not have good **luck**, to not be lucky.

I want to move but I've had no **luck** finding an apartment I can afford that is close to my office.

= I had no success trying to find an apartment that is good for me. I wasn't lucky.

Luck can **run out**. This also means to not be lucky.

Our school tennis champ Kelly was on a 9 game winning streak, but she lost her match yesterday. I guess her **luck ran out**.

(A winning streak is when you win means games in a row, you win back to back)

The following uses for **luck** have the meaning from definition #2. This version is often used with the adjectives GOOD and BAD. Both refer to something that happened that was beyond your control (you didn't cause this to happen) that had a positive (good) or negative (bad) effect on you.

Good luck

I shot a hole in one on Saturday. I'm really not a good golfer, it was just good luck.

The most common way we use the phrase "good luck" is to encourage someone before a game, job interview, test or other challenge or event in their life.

A: My chemistry final is tomorrow, if I ace the test I can get a scholarship for university.

B: Good luck on the test!

*To ACE a test means to do very well. To get a very high score.

A: I'm running my first half marathon tomorrow.

B: Wow! That will be a great accomplishment. Good luck!

It's also common to ask someone for luck when you have a big challenge or event with the phrase: "Wish me luck."

My chemistry final is tomorrow, wish me luck.

I'm running my first half marathon tomorrow. Wish me luck.

**I've got a big test tomorrow.
Wish me luck.**



Bad luck

Bad luck is a thing that you can have or experience because of something negative that was out of your control.

We planned a huge family picnic on Sunday. Many family members traveled a long way to come here, but there was a big thunderstorm on Sunday so we had to cancel. What bad luck.

The noun luck can be used with other positive and negative adjectives too.

I overslept this morning and I was late for work. My boss would have been so angry at me, but he suddenly got called to an emergency meeting in New York. No one noticed that I was late! What amazing luck!

*It's also very common to use the adjective LUCKY in this situation.

I was very lucky!

Many family members traveled a long way to come here, but there was a big thunderstorm on Sunday so we had to cancel. What terrible luck.
What awful luck.

any luck?

(informal) used to ask somebody if they have been successful with something

A: I asked for a raise this morning.

B: **Any luck?** (Were you successful in getting a raise?)

A: The boss said the company doesn't have the money now so I should ask again in 3 months.

as luck would have it

in the way that chance decides what will happen

I have an important meeting this morning and, **as luck would have it**, there is a big traffic jam on the highway.

We can say bad luck or hard luck etc. to show sympathy for somebody who experienced something bad.

Bad luck, Kelly, you played very well. (This has the feeling that it was not Kelly's fault that she lost, it was because of bad luck.)

A: I failed the test by only one point!

B: One point! Wow, that's **tough luck**.

These sentences show sympathy for the person you are talking to. The noun **sympathy** means - a feeling of being sorry for somebody; showing that you understand and care about somebody's problems.

Tough luck can also be used to show that you do not feel sorry for somebody who has a problem.

A: The donuts are gone? I didn't get one today.

B: **Tough luck**, you ate 4 yesterday!

The fact that you don't care is usually clear by the sound of your voice.

be down on your luck

(informal) to have no money because of a period of bad luck

A: I haven't seen Brad lately. Have you?

B: Mike talked to him yesterday. He lost his job and doesn't have much money now. He's really **down on his luck**.

the best of luck (with something), good luck (with something)

(informal) used to wish somebody success with something

I heard you have to make a big presentation at work on Monday. **Best of luck** with that.

better luck next time

(informal) used to encourage somebody who has not been successful at something

A: I applied for a manager position at my company, but I didn't get it.

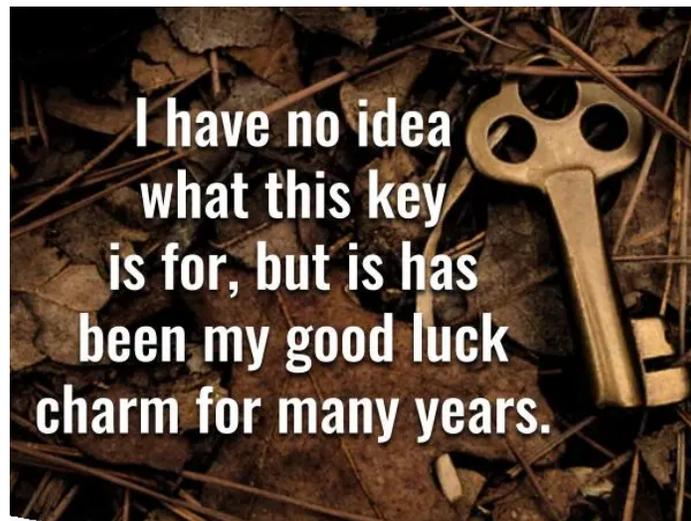
B: **Better luck next time**. I'm sure another job will become available in the future, and you'll have more experience then.

for luck

because you believe it will bring you good luck, or because this is a traditional belief

I found an interesting key in the forest when I was 11. It's in my wallet now, I always carry it **for luck**.

An item that you keep **for luck** is called a **good luck charm**.



They are deciding who gets the new manager position today at work. I hope I get it! Honey, give me a kiss **for luck!**

good luck to somebody

(informal) used to say that you do not mind what somebody does as it does not affect you, but you hope they will be successful

Owen has joined a group trying to climb K2. It seems dangerous so I wouldn't want to try it, but **good luck to him.**

just my/somebody's luck

(informal) used to show you are not surprised something bad has happened to you, because you are not often lucky

I left work early today but there was a big accident on the highway so I still got home late. **Just my luck.**



the luck of the draw

the fact that chance decides something, in a way that you cannot control

The tournament matches are chosen by lottery. If you face a strong team or a weak team in the first round it is just **the luck of the draw**.

no such luck

used to show disappointment that something you were hoping for did not happen

A: Did you get an easy match in the first round of the tournament?

B: **No such luck**. We will face one of the strongest teams in our first have.

push your luck

(informal) to take a risk because you have successfully avoided problems in the past

The last time you were late the boss was away, but don't **push your luck**. Eventually you'll get caught and the boss will be mad!

We can also say ~ **push it/things** to have the same feeling.
The last time you were late the boss was away, but don't **push it**.

try your luck (at something)

to do something that involves risk or luck, hoping to succeed

After James had to close his cafe in the mall he decided to open a new one beside the movie theater. He wants to **try his luck** there. Maybe it will be a better location for him.

