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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## The White Elephant

### 8: Lucky



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*NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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**Gordon**

Mary, **today is your lucky day!**

**Mary**

Oh really Gordon, why's that?

**Gordon**

I have made a fabulous meal using just one large pan. So not much washing-up for you!

**Mary**

Oh, lucky me!

**Gordon**

Yes and it's nearly ready – just **one more chilli for luck**. Peter!

**Peter**

Yes Mr Gordon... you called?

**Gordon**

I want you to take that pan to table 3 and watch their faces **light up** with amazement. Be careful!

**Mary**

Do you want a hand?

**Peter**

It's OK Mary, leave this with me.

**Gordon**

This is my signature dish – the recipe **fell into my lap** when I worked at one of the world's top restaurants – but you wouldn't have heard of it.

**Mary**

Oh wouldn't I? Well, it has got a lot of chilli in it so it's not to everyone's taste.

**Peter**

Water! Water!

**Gordon**

Where's the fire? Where's the fire?

**Peter**

No fire... chilli... too much chilli. They don't like it...

**Gordon**

Idiots! They don't know good food when they've seen it!

**Peter**

They want something plain... simpler...

**Gordon**

Boring you mean. Right, I'll have to make spaghetti bolognaise. Well, now I'll need some pots and pans...

**Mary**

There's **a stroke of luck** – I've washed all these!

... **better luck next time!**

## Vocabulary

### **(someone's) lucky day**

a day when good things will happen to someone

### **one more (something) for luck**

an extra (something) for good fortune

### **light up**

(here) suddenly look happy or amazed

### **fell into my lap**

obtained without any effort

### **a stroke of luck**

a good thing that's happened unexpectedly

### **better luck next time**

(an expression of encouragement or sarcasm)

hope you have more success next time

## Questions

1. Why does Gordon add a chilli to his special meal?

(Hint: It's not listed in the recipe!)

- a) To add colour
- b) For luck
- c) To make it very very hot

2. Why did Gordon say it was Mary's lucky day?

(Hint: There was less work for her to do.)

- a) Because he wasn't doing any cooking today.
- b) Because she had washed up lots of pots and pans.
- c) Because he was only using one pan to create his special meal.

3. What did Mary say to Gordon to mean here's a good thing that you weren't expecting?

(Hint: Look at the vocabulary reference.)

- a) There's a stroke of luck.
- b) Better luck next time
- c) You're stroking luck.

## Answers

1. Why does Gordon add a chilli to his special meal?

a) To add colour. That's not the reason he added it to the pot.

**b) For luck. Correct! He added it 'for luck' just for good fortune. The recipe didn't say it was necessary.**

c) To make it very very hot. Wrong! It probably did make the food spicier but he wasn't sure and was just taking a chance. Try again.

2. Why did Gordon say it was Mary's lucky day?

a) Because he wasn't doing any cooking today. Wrong. He was cooking a special meal. Try again.

b) Because she had washed up lots of pots and pans. Wrong. She may have done this but that's not why Gordon thought it was a lucky day for Mary. Try again.

**c) Because he was only using one pan to create his special meal. That's right. He said "I have made a fabulous meal using just one large pan. So there's not much washing-up for you!"**

3. What did Mary say to Gordon to mean here's a good thing that you weren't expecting?

**a) There's a stroke of luck. That's right. Well done!**

b) Better luck next time. Wrong. That's not the correct phrase.

c) You're stroking luck. Not quite the right phrase. Try again.