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Will You Win Powerball? A Vending Machine Death Is More Likely



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The winner of this Wednesday's Powerball drawing is poised to collect a staggering \$1.5 billion (before taxes). But with the discouraging odds of 1 in 292.2 million, it's extremely unlikely that you'll find yourself with the winning ticket. In fact, you're more likely to die from a vending-machine-related accident than to draw the lucky number. (The odds of dying from a vending-machine-related accident are 1 in 112 million, according to "[The Book of Odds](#)" by Amram Shapiro.

Here's a roundup of scenarios that [statistics](#) predict are more likely than winning this Wednesday's Powerball:

If you're into gambling, you'd have much better chances at the poker table — the odds of being dealt a royal flush in the card game are 1 in 649,740. [[8 Weird Statistics About Daily Life](#)]

Even if you've never golfed, you're more likely to snag a hole in one

than to draw the winning ticket. According to [Golf Digest](#), an amateur golfer's odds of getting an ace are 1 in 12,500.

And you're more likely to end up in the [emergency room](#) due to a pogo-stick accident than to win this Powerball drawing — the odds of that are 1 in 175,667, according to "The Book of Odds" (William Morrow Paperbacks, 2014).

You're also more likely to [have quintuplets](#), the odds of which are 1 in 92,720, according to "The Book of Odds." (Having quintuplets naturally is even rarer; about two-thirds of higher-order births are the result of in vitro fertilization.)

When it comes to weird ways to die, a number of highly unlikely scenarios have better odds than hitting the jackpot.

For instance, the odds of being killed by a lightning strike are 1 in 164,968, the [National Safety Council](#) reports. And "The Book of Odds" notes that, although you're less likely to die by falling into the [Grand Canyon](#) (1 in 1.586 million), it's still more likely than winning the Powerball. In fact, you're more likely to be murdered in the Grand Canyon (odds: 1 in 8.2 million) than to win this week's Powerball.

Here are some more ways of dying that are more common than winning this week's Powerball drawing, also from the National Safety Council:

- Being bitten or struck by a dog: 1 in 116,448
- Being stung by a hornet, wasp or bee: 1 in 55,764
- Cataclysmic [storm](#): 1 in 6,780

But it's not all bad news — you're still more likely to draw the winning lottery ticket than you are to pick a perfect NCAA tournament bracket. According to mathematicians, your chances of that are 1 in 9.2 quintillion. (That's if you filled it out randomly, of course.)

And while you're more likely to find a four-leaf clover than to win — odds of 1 in 10,000 — your odds of finding 21 of them at once, like one very lucky Australian did in 2014, are about "one in a number with 84 zeroes," [Australia's Daily Telegraph](#) reports.

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