



Gambling

Conversation > Advanced 7



Exercise 1 – Vocabulary

bet	To risk money on a game, a race or an event by trying to predict the result.
[verb]	<i>Ex: She took a chance and bet all the money she had.</i>

casino	A public building or room where people can gamble.
[noun]	<i>Ex: Las Vegas is famous for its casinos.</i>

chip	A small flat piece of plastic used to represent a particular amount of money in some types of gambling.
[noun]	<i>Ex: Do you know how to count casino chips?</i>

dealer	(in this case) The person who gives out the cards in a card game.
[noun]	<i>Ex: Dealers are trained to spot cheaters and card-counters.</i>



excessive	Beyond what seems reasonable or appropriate.
[adjective]	<i>Ex: He spends an excessive amount of time watching television.</i>

gamble	To risk money in the hope of gaining a profit.
[verb]	<i>Ex: When gambling, you have to be very lucky to win.</i>

slot machine	A gambling machine that you put coins into and that gives money back if certain images appear together on the screen.
[noun]	<i>Ex: She was addicted to slot machines.</i>



Exercise 2 – Dialogue

Choose one character and read the dialogue aloud with your tutor.

Laura: Hey, Dave! How was Las Vegas? Did you win or lose?

Dave: A little bit of both, in the end.

Laura: Where did you stay?

Dave: At the Golden Nugget, it's one of the oldest casinos in Las Vegas. But we didn't spend much time there.

Laura: Why not? What did you do?

Dave: I decided I wanted to visit every casino in the city!

Laura: That sounds a little bit excessive. Surely you didn't have enough time to visit every casino in town.

Dave: Not quite, but we came close. I eventually decided to pick one of my favorite places and gamble there.



Laura: I guess you got tired of moving through the crowds.

Dave: True. Also, this way I didn't have to keep changing my cash for chips at every new casino.

Laura: What's the craziest bet you made?

Dave: One game, I bet all my money on a pair of twos and I won! The dealer thought I had lost my mind...

Laura: That is crazy! Why would you take such a risk?

Dave: For the thrill of it, of course! I like to risk it all and try to win big.

Laura: I guess that's why you're broke all the time. When I gamble I do it on a slot machine.

Dave: I never understood why people waste their money on slot machines. There's no excitement in that.



Exercise 3 – Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct answers from the answer pool below and fill in the blanks.

Answer Pool

excessive

dealer

gambled

slot machine

bet

casino

chips

1. I _____ on the same horse every time. It's a good tactic!
2. During his vacation in Las Vegas, he _____ and partied a lot.
3. He won a jackpot on the _____.
4. He opened a new _____ in California.
5. Did you know that _____ drinking can damage your liver?
6. The poker _____ looked at me and handed me my cards.
7. He placed all of his _____ on red.



Exercise 4 – Role Play

Take turns with your tutor and act out the scene described below.

Scene: You want to borrow some money from your friend Peter because you are going to the casino. Ask him about it and try to convince him to do it. The teacher can be Peter.



Exercise 5 – Discussion

Discuss the following questions with your tutor.

1. Have you ever been to a casino? Why? Why not?
2. What do you think of gambling?
3. What do you know about Las Vegas?
4. Would you like to go to Las Vegas? Why? Why not?
5. Would you ever bet money on a horse race? Why? Why not?