

Q "I want to win cash and prizes!"

Ever dream of winning money, vacations and other amazing prizes, but think the odds are impossible to beat? Not true! You can absolutely increase your chances of winning the lottery, sweepstakes and other contests with proven-to-work tips from past winners!

1 Win more sweepstakes and contests!

Can't resist a giveaway? Now you can rake in more swag with advice from contest experts Carolyn Wilman and Sandra Grauschopf:

Score freebies with Facebook!

The newest hot spot for giveaways? Facebook! Just "friend" your favorite companies to enjoy incredible odds of winning prizes, says Wilman. Many offer Facebook contests that give you a 1 in 200 or better chance to win! For example, Best Western holds a contest every week, where you have to guess the location of a picture they post. Winners get a \$100 gift card!

Also smart: Facebook is also home to hundreds of sweepstakes from advertisers. The more you enter, the more likely you are to win!

Take prizes on Twitter!

Sometimes it's good to be a follower! And because not many people currently enter contests via Twitter, your odds of winning can be as good as 1 in 50! Just follow your favorite store, radio station or restaurant to find out about contests. Wilman recently tweeted her way to a pair of tickets to the *So You Think You Can Dance* live tour courtesy of her local radio station!

Win big by visiting blogs!

Many blogs offer daily giveaways: All you have to do is visit regularly and either post a comment or fill out an entry form to win! Try ThriftyJinxy.com, SweepstakesMama.com and Leslie LovesVeggies.com.

2 Boost your lottery odds!

Discover how to better your chances of success with advice from seven-time lottery winner Richard Lustig:

Buy 10 scratch-offs in a row!

Love scratch-off tickets? You can win almost every time, says Lustig, if you follow just one trick: Instead of buying a few tickets for several different games, choose one game and buy 10 tickets in a row. Winning scratch-offs are scattered randomly throughout the big roll they're sold from, and buying a string of 10 is the magic number proven to yield a prize!

Also smart: Stick to the newest scratch-off games! Stores keep selling game tickets even after the biggest prizes have been claimed. By choosing just-released games, you're more likely to have a shot at a grand prize.

Pick these numbers!

When it comes to games where you play a series of numbers, the secret to winning is how you make your picks, says Lustig. Forget the random, computer-generated Quick Pick, which is different every time and won't up your chances of winning. Instead, follow the lottery drawings and see which numbers haven't popped up in a few weeks—those are more likely to appear soon. Another option? You can also try sticking to your lucky numbers every time: Statistics prove playing them consistently boosts your chances of winning!

Play your state lotto!

Interstate drawings like Powerball have more people buying, so your odds of winning are only 1 in 195 million, while state lotteries such as Florida's, for example, have a smaller pool of buyers so offer much better odds of 1 in 24 million!

More ways to up your success! Visit here!

Not into social media? Visit contest aggregate sites, which put together a list of the greatest giveaways being offered online! You won't have to waste time hunting down contests, so you can spend your time entering as many as possible! Check out: OnlineSweepstakes.com, SweepingAmerica.com and AllDayGiveaways.com.

Use all five entry methods!

Another great way to send your odds soaring? Enter contests as many times as possible in as many different ways as you can! The five most common entry methods: in person, telephone, snail mail, text message and online.

—Jennifer Leonard

Our expert panel

Seven-time grand-prize winner **Richard Lustig** (WinningLotteryMethod.com) has won millions in cash and prizes. He is the author of *Learn How to Increase Your Chances of Winning the Lottery*.

Carolyn Wilman (ContestQueen.com) is the author of *You Can't Win If You Don't Enter*. She teaches others how to find, enter and win contests, sweepstakes and giveaways using her Internet Sweepstake System.

Sandra Grauschopf is the contest guide for About.com, where she keeps a blog dedicated to games and sweepstakes. An enthusiastic player, she has won many prizes throughout the years.