

BE A WINNER!

PART 1

Are there ways to boost your chances of winning competitions? You bet! Our expert reveals his top-secret tips

Most of us enjoy a flutter, and enter competitions every now and then. But wouldn't it be wonderful to boost your chances of winning?

In this two-part series, we give you our insider's guide to winning. This week, we reveal how to maximise your chances of scoring big in

competitions, thanks to our winning expert Andrew Lindner, owner of www.lottos.com.au, Australia's leading competition website.

"There are two main types of competitions," Andrew explains. "There are games of skill, in which winners are decided on the creative merit of their entries, and games of chance. Here are my tips for winning both."

Anyone can win big according to Andrew



HOW TO WIN GAMES OF SKILL

- Fewer people enter these as it's harder work. The fewer people who enter, the better your chances.
- Try to mention the company brand name within your entry.
- Be as creative, clever and funny as possible.
- Poems and rhymes can stand out.
- Enter as many times as you can but keep each answer different.
- Send in your entry early.
- Competitions aimed at men get fewer entries so your odds are better.
- Small, local competitions attract far fewer people than national draws.
- Take note of competitions offering unusual prizes – everyone wants a new car but not necessarily an adventure playground. Remember, you can always sell a prize you don't want.
- Some people have won with very basic answers so they are always worth a try.

HOW TO WIN GAMES OF CHANCE

- Patience and persistence are the keys to winning.
- If you're allowed to enter more than once, do so.
- If you require separate receipts to enter, visit the supermarket at a quiet time to be sure you don't get rushed and forget.
- Go for smaller, local competitions where fewer people enter.

YOUR BEST ODDS

- When writing your details on the back of the envelope for mail-in competitions, use small print near the top of the envelope rather than the middle. People have reported having their mail delivered back to them.
- When entering competitions with a word limit, ensure you don't go over it. The promoter has an obligation to stick to their terms and conditions and could disqualify you. They also don't have time to read a novel.

MYTH OR FACT?

Competitions are rigged
Most states have laws preventing this. If you think a competition has not been run according to its terms and conditions, you can lodge a complaint online at www.olgr.nsw.gov.au

Some competitions are never drawn
Andrew Lindner says he has heard of this happening but it's very rare.

Some people make a living entering competitions
It's true. Mary Keane, who

recently featured in *Take 5*, makes a great living from competitions, but most people do it for fun.

Promoters always check proof of purchase
Companies don't always ask for the proof, but why take the chance? If you get drawn and don't have proof of purchase, the promoter may redraw the prize.

NEXT WEEK: How to win more money on Lotto and get on the biggest game shows on television.