

## Game Show Cheats

### Lead-in

*Who wants to be a Millionaire?* is one of the most popular TV game shows in the world. Discuss the questions about it with a partner.

1. Have you ever watched the programme? If so, what is it called in your country? Do you enjoy watching it? Why?
2. Why is the programme so popular all over the world?
3. Here are five rules for playing the game. Which 'rule' is false?
  - a. Contestants answer questions, by choosing one of four possible answers.
  - b. Questions get increasingly difficult until the contestant gets an answer wrong, (and loses most of the money they have won), or decides to stop playing, and takes the money they have won up to that point.
  - c. If a contestant doesn't know an answer, he/she can phone a friend or ask the audience if they know the answer.
  - d. A friend of the contestant in the audience is allowed to signal the answers.
  - e. If the contestant answers all the questions, he/she wins a million.

### Vocabulary

Answer the *Who wants to be a Millionaire?* vocabulary questions. If you answer all the questions correctly you win a million pounds. If you don't know the answer, you can phone a classmate.

- 1 If you are dishonest when you play a game or do an exam, then what are you doing?
 

A stealing	B cheating	
C drawing	D joking	£100
- 2 If you make a noise with your throat, what is it called?
 

A a cough	B a sneeze	
C a snore	D a sniff	£1000
- 3 If something is of poor quality, what is it?
 

A dirty	B naughty	
C shabby	D filthy	£10000
- 4 If you *think of* a good plan, then what do you do?
 

A come up to a plan	B come down to a plan	
C come down with a plan	D come up with a plan	£100000

- 5 If a dream holiday goes wrong, then it turns \_\_\_\_\_.
- |   |       |   |       |         |
|---|-------|---|-------|---------|
| A | rough | B | sour  |         |
| C | over  | D | stiff | £500000 |
- 6 If are completely in love with something, then what are you?
- |   |          |   |          |            |
|---|----------|---|----------|------------|
| A | besotted | B | betroted |            |
| C | berated  | D | bemoaned | £1 million |

**Reading 1**

You are going to read a newspaper article about an attempt to win the British version of *Who wants to be a Millionaire?* by cheating.

Read the passage and find the information below.

- 1 How many people were involved in the attempt to cheat on the programme?
- 2 What were their jobs?
- 3 Were they sent to prison?
- 4 Why were they caught?

**Guilty: trio who tried to cheat their way to £1m**  
by Jeevan Vasagar

An army major, his wife and a college lecturer were found guilty this week of attempting to cheat on the game show *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* Major Charles Ingram and his wife, Diana, both 39, were convicted along with a college lecturer, Tecwen Whittock, 53, after the three came up with a scheme to defraud the quiz show of £1m.

As the army officer was in the hot seat on the show, the lecturer, who sat one metre behind him, coughed to steer him towards the right answers. The major's wife was the point of contact between the two. The major was given a cheque for £1m, but it was stopped after the programme's makers became suspicious and contacted police. The three were spared prison because the Ingrams have young children. However, the Ingrams of Easterton, Wiltshire, were sentenced to 18 months in prison, suspended for two years, each fined £15,000 and ordered to pay £10,000 in costs.

Whittock, head of business studies at Pontypridd further education college in Wales, was sentenced to 12 months in prison, also suspended for two years, and was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay £7,500 in costs.

Judge Geoffrey Rivlin said: "I'm not at all sure it was sheer greed that motivated this offence. I'm sure that all three of you were besotted with quiz programmes, and ambitious to be successful on a major TV show. It was this that caused you to wonder whether you could beat and - it has to be said - cheat the system."

What the judge described as the "shabby schoolboy trick" of coughing to mark the right answers was more successful than they could have hoped for. But their win turned sour "when you realised you had gone too far".

The army has launched an inquiry into whether the major can continue to serve.

*The Guardian Weekly 20-3-0410, page 9*

## Reading 2

Read the passage in more detail and answer the questions. Discuss them with a partner.

- 1 How did the attempt to cheat on the programme work?
- 2 Why didn't they go to prison?
- 3 Why did they do it?

Do you think the sentence of the court was fair?

### Vocabulary in context

There are many phrases in the passage connected with 'the law'. Replace the words in italics in each sentence with a synonym from the box.

fined	convicted	offense
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He was *found guilty* of a crime.

He was *ordered to pay* £100

A suspended prison sentence means that the person will only go to prison if they commit another *crime* within a fixed period?

### Follow-up

You are going to play *Who wants to be a millionaire?* In pairs write five grammar or vocabulary questions. Write four possible answers to each question. Here is an (easy) example:

Which word doesn't mean very large?

- A enormous      B huge  
C vast            D tiny

Put your questions in order, from the easiest to the most difficult. Ask one student from the class to come to the front. Ask him/her your questions. The first question is worth £100, the second £1000, the third £10000, the fourth £100000, and the last, £1m.

The student must answer your questions, and find out how much they can win. Remember that they can phone a classmate (once), and ask the class, (once).

When they have finished, change contestant and question master. How many students win £1 million? Ask your teacher for the money.

### Lead-in

Find out which students have watched *Who wants to be a Millionaire?* It is popular in many countries in the world. Pair up students who know about the programme with students who don't. If your students have never heard of it, briefly summarise the game.

Put the students in pairs or groups to discuss the questions.

### Answers

- 1 Students' ideas.
- 2 Students' ideas. Suggestions: the amount of money, and the tension involved when people must decide whether to risk an answer, is very compelling.
- 3 D is false

### Vocabulary

Ask students to answer the *Who wants to be a Millionaire?* vocabulary questions. If they don't know an answer, you can phone (ask) a classmate.

### Answers

- 1 B
- 2 A
- 3 C
- 4 D
- 5 B
- 6 A

### Reading 1

Ask students to read the passage and find the information.

### Answers

- 1 3
- 2 Army officer (Major Ingram), college lecturer (Tecwen Whittock), don't know (Diana Ingram).
- 3 No
- 4 Because they went too far.

### Reading 2

Ask students to read the passage in more detail and answer the questions, then discuss them with a partner.

### Answers

- 1 Whittock coughed to signal the correct answer to Major Ingram.
- 2 They had children.
- 3 They were besotted with trying to win a quiz programme.

### Vocabulary in context

Put the students in pairs to replace the words in italics in each sentence with a synonym from the box.

#### Answers

Found guilty = Convicted.

Ordered to pay = Fined

Crime = Offence

### Follow-up

Put students in pairs to write five grammar or vocabulary questions. Students take it in turns to be contestants and quizmasters.

Alternatively, prepare a pile of *Who wants to be a Millionaire?* questions which revise vocabulary and grammar that you have recently taught. Then play the game as described.