

# The lottery winner who shot her ex-husband

Have you ever won money in a lottery? (*No, I haven't. / Yes, I won...*)

## Vocabulary

1. appeal      2. sued      3. unexpected      4. kidnapped      5. lottery      6. threatened

## True Story

Tonda Dickerson, a waitress in Florida, won \$10 million from a \_\_\_\_\_ ticket tip in 1999. She chose to get \$375,000 a year for 30 years. After winning, she faced many problems. Her coworkers \_\_\_\_\_ her, saying they had an agreement to share any lottery winnings. Tonda won the case on \_\_\_\_\_. Edward Seward, who gave her the ticket, also sued her, claiming she promised him a truck.

Then, her ex-husband, Stacy Martin, tried to hurt her. He \_\_\_\_\_ her and \_\_\_\_\_ to kill her. But Tonda defended herself bravely. She shot him in the chest when he wasn't looking. Luckily, he survived and didn't harm her.

The IRS asked for a big gift tax from her winnings, but she didn't have to pay after going to court. Today, Tonda's life is private, and she has stayed out of the public eye. Her story shows how winning a lot of money suddenly can lead to \_\_\_\_\_ challenges.

## Quiz

1. Why did Tonda's coworkers sue her?
2. How did she escape from her ex-husband?
3. What did the IRS ask her for after she won the lottery?

## True or False

- |   |              |
|---|--------------|
| 1. Tonda chose to get all her lottery winnings at once.                     | True   False |
| 2. Edward Seward, who gave Tonda the lottery ticket, was shot in the chest. | True   False |
| 3. Tonda had to pay the IRS \$375,000 a year for 30 years.                  | True   False |

## Conversation

- A: Tonda, congrats on winning the lottery!
- B: Thanks, but it's been tough with the lawsuits and all.
- A: We did have an agreement to share, right?
- B: That was just casual talk, not a real agreement.
- A: But we've always supported each other. It's about fairness.
- B: I know, but.... hey, what do you think of my new shotgun?

## Discussion

1. Would you like to win a lottery? Why or why not?
2. What would you do if you won a lot of money?
3. Have you ever been in a difficult situation with your coworkers?
4. Do you think it's better to live a private life or a public life? Why?