

## Gambler sues hotel casino for losing

6<sup>th</sup> July, 2014



The wife of the foreign minister of Oman is suing a high-class London casino for losing money at its gambling tables. Nora Al-Daher racked up a near-\$3.5-million loss in

the casino of one of London's most exclusive hotels, The Ritz. She blew the cash in just a few hours and then blamed staff at the hotel for not stopping her. The 50-year-old multi-millionaire insisted it was the casino's fault that she lost as they knew she had a gambling problem. She told the judge at the High Court in London: "I needed someone that night to tell me to stop playing and bring me to my senses. If I had been told to stop, of course I would have done so immediately, but no one ever told me to stop or to think about my gambling."

Ms Al-Daher told the court how she had arrived at The Ritz that evening already having lost a "significant" amount of money at other London casinos. The case reached the High Court after The Ritz sued Ms Al-Daher for almost \$1.5 million for her cheques that had not been honoured. Al-Daher said she realised she had become a gambling addict in 1999 and then lost more than \$10 million at The Ritz over the following three years. Her lawyer told the court that casino staff urged her to lose money, saying: "Staff positively encouraged her when she was losing, saying, 'Anything for you, Princess Nora. We trust you. No problem. Relax. Don't worry....The next time you will get your money back'."

Sources: *Daily Mirror* / *Evening Standard* / *BBC*

## Writing

Gambling is morally wrong. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

*foreign minister / casino / gambling / exclusive hotels / multi-millionaire / senses / significant / addict / \$10 million / encouraged / no problem / get your money back*

## True / False

- A foreign minister is suing a London casino over gambling losses. T / F
- The gambler lost over \$3 million in a few hours. T / F
- The gambler claims the casino should have stopped her from playing. T / F
- The gambler said she would have stopped if told to do so. T / F
- It was the gambler's first visit to a casino that evening. T / F
- The gambler said she became addicted to gambling a few years ago. T / F
- The casino won \$10 million from the gambler in three years. T / F
- A lawyer said the casino did not encourage the gambler to play. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. high-class  | a. squandered    |
| 2. racked up   | b. have faith in |
| 3. blew        | c. remarkable    |
| 4. insisted    | d. subsequent    |
| 5. immediately | e. exclusive     |
| 6. significant | f. maintained    |
| 7. honoured    | g. persuaded     |
| 8. following   | h. fulfilled     |
| 9. urged       | i. amassed       |
| 10. trust      | j. instantly     |

## Discussion – Student A

- Should Nora Al-Daher simply accept she gambled and lost?
- Was The Ritz right to sue Nora Al-Daher for her bad cheque?
- Isn't casino staff encouraging someone to gamble like clothes shop staff encouraging someone to buy a shirt?
- Is gambling morally wrong?
- What would you decide if you were the judge (and why)?
- Have you ever gambled?
- What advice do you have for Nora Al-Daher?
- What questions would you like to ask the boss of The Ritz?

# Breaking News English - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

1. a high-
  2. racked up a
  3. She blew the cash
  4. multi-
  5. bring me to
  6. lost a "significant"
  7. The case reached
  8. gambling
  9. over the following
  10. Staff positively
- a. addict
  - b. in just a few hours
  - c. amount of money
  - d. my senses
  - e. the High Court
  - f. class London casino
  - g. three years
  - h. millionaire
  - i. encouraged her
  - j. near-\$3.5-million loss

## Discussion – Student B

- a) Why do people like gambling?
- b) How can we help gambling addicts?
- c) Should casinos be made illegal?
- d) Do you feel sorry for Nora Al-Daher?
- e) Do you think the casino was in the wrong in this case?
- f) How can people be prepared to lose millions when millions are starving?
- g) Should gambling addicts be barred from casinos?
- h) Is there anything good about gambling?

## Spelling

1. isnug a high-class London casino
2. one of London's most elexsuvic hotels
3. insisted it was the casino's lufta
4. the dgjue at the High Court
5. bring me to my sessen
6. I would have done so emialtemdyi
7. a ngcsitinfai amount of money
8. cheques that had not been udoehnor
9. a gambling ditdca
10. Her waelyr told the court that...
11. staff egrud her to lose money
12. Staff positively gecenraoud her

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. i	3. a	4. f	5. j
6. c	7. h	8. d	9. g	10. b

## Role Play

### Role A – Gambling

You think gambling is the worst addiction. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so bad about their addictions. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): alcohol, gaming or shopping.

### Role B – Alcohol

You think alcohol is the worst addiction. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so bad about their addictions. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): gambling, gaming or shopping.

### Role C – Gaming

You think gaming is the worst addiction. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so bad about their addictions. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): alcohol, gambling or shopping.

### Role D – Shopping

You think shopping is the worst addiction. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so bad about their addictions. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): alcohol, gaming or gambling.

## Speaking –

Rank these with your partner. Put the most acceptable at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- cards with friends
- scratch cards
- slot machines
- online bingo
- poker at a casino
- betting on horseracing
- lottery ticket
- financial investments

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.