



American Expression E1255 Third time's the charm

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The phrase "third time's the charm" is a popular idiomatic expression that conveys the idea that after two previous unsuccessful attempts or failures, the third attempt is more likely to succeed. It suggests that persistence and determination can lead to a favorable outcome, often with a sense of optimism and confidence.

This phrase is rooted in the belief in the significance of numbers and patterns. In many cultures, the number three has been historically associated with completeness, balance, and positive outcomes. The idea that the third attempt is more likely to be successful may have its origins in superstition and folklore.

When people use the expression "third time's the charm," they are often reflecting on their experiences with perseverance and resilience. It is a way of acknowledging that initial failures or setbacks should not discourage further efforts. Instead, it encourages individuals to maintain their resolve and keep trying, with the belief that the third attempt will bring success.

The phrase is versatile and can be applied to various situations in life. For example, if someone is attempting to pass a difficult exam and has failed it twice, they might say, "I'm going to take it again, and they say the third time's the charm." This reflects their determination to succeed despite previous setbacks.

In relationships, the phrase can also be used optimistically. If a couple faces challenges or conflicts and decides to work on their issues, they might say, "We've had our ups and downs, but we believe the third time's the charm," expressing their hope for a positive resolution and a stronger bond.

While "third time's the charm" is often used with a sense of optimism, it's important to recognize that success is not guaranteed on the third attempt. The phrase serves as a motivational reminder to stay persistent and not give up easily, but it does not guarantee a specific outcome. Success depends on various factors, including effort, preparation, and circumstances.

In some cases, people may use this expression humorously or ironically, especially when facing a challenging or unpredictable situation. They might say it with a sense of irony, acknowledging that life doesn't always adhere to neat patterns or expectations.

In conclusion, "third time's the charm" is an idiomatic expression that conveys the belief in the increased likelihood of success after previous failures or setbacks. It reflects the human tendency to persevere and maintain optimism in the face of challenges. While it carries a sense of hope and determination, it's important to recognize that success is not guaranteed solely based on the number of attempts. Instead, the phrase encourages individuals to keep trying, learn from previous experiences, and approach challenges with resilience and confidence.

Questions for Discussion

1. Can you share a personal experience where the saying "third time's the charm" proved to be true, and how did your persistence lead to success after initial setbacks?
2. In what areas of life do you believe the concept of "third time's the charm" is most applicable, and why? Are there situations where it may not be as relevant or effective?
3. How does the idea of "third time's the charm" relate to the importance of resilience and perseverance in achieving one's goals or overcoming obstacles?
4. Have you ever witnessed or heard of instances where someone achieved success on their first try, despite the common belief that the third attempt is typically the lucky one? What factors do you think contribute to such exceptions?
5. In your opinion, does the saying "third time's the charm" encourage healthy persistence and determination, or can it sometimes lead to unrealistic expectations and repeated failures? How can individuals strike a balance between persistence and recognizing when it may be more appropriate to change their approach?