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What does it mean when something happens by chance

This month at SHAPE, we've collected a potpourri of exercise songs--both old and new. Included in the bunch are The Cars' first single, a snide blast from Kaiser Chiefs, and racing number from Tegan and Sara. Elephant - Sirens - 158 BPM Queen - Bicycle Race - 85 BPM The Cars - Just What I Needed - 128 BPM Owl City - Umbrella Beach - 136 BPM Kaiser Chiefs - Never Miss A Beat - 158 BPM Living Things - Let It Rain - 133 BPM Tegan & Sara - Northshore - 107 BPM Wolfmother - New Moon Rising - 137 BPM Train - Hey, Soul Sister - 97 BPM See All SHAPE Playlists >> noun jump to other results [countable, uncountable] the fact of two things happening at the same time by chance, in a surprising waya strange/an extraordinary/a remarkable coincidenceWhat a coincidence! I wasn't expecting to see you here.It's not a coincidence that none of the directors are women (= it did not happen by chance).By (sheer) coincidence, I met the person we'd been discussing the next day.Synonyms luckchancecoincidenceaccidentfatedestinyThese are all words for things that happen or the force that causes them to happen.luck the force that causes good or bad things to happen to people.This ring has always brought me good luck.chance the way that some things happen without any cause that you can see or understand:The results could simply be due to chance.coincidence the fact of two things happening at the same time by chance, in a surprising way.They met through a series of strange coincidences.accident something that happens unexpectedly and is not planned in advance:Their early arrival was just an accident.fate the power that is believed to control everything that happens and that cannot be stopped or changed:Fate decreed that she would never reach America.destiny the power that is believed to control events:I believe there's some force guiding us--call it God, destiny or fate. fate or destiny?Fate can be kind, but this is an unexpected gift; just as often, fate is cruel and makes people feel helpless. Destiny is more likely to give people a sense of power: people who have a strong sense of destiny usually believe that they are meant to be great or do great things.Patternsby ...luck/chance/coincidence/accidentIt's no coincidence/accident that...pure/sheer luck/chance/coincidence/accidentto believe in luck/coincidences/fate/destinyWordfinderamuletcharmcoincidencefatefortunejinxluckmascothsupertitionalismanExtra ExamplesBy an unfortunate coincidence, their house was burgled on the day he lost his job.By coincidence, we both went to the same school.It was pure coincidence that they were both in Paris on the same day.Remarkable coincidences do happen in real life.They met through a series of strange coincidences.What a happy coincidence to meet you at the airport just when I wanted to see you.By sheer coincidence, I met the person we'd been discussing the next day.It's not a coincidence that none of the directors is a woman.Oxford Collocations Dictionaryadjective... of coincidencescoincidence + verbprepositionSee full entry [singular] (formal) the fact of things being present at the same timethe coincidence of inflation and unemployment [singular] (formal) the fact of two or more opinions, etc. being the samea coincidence of interests between the two partners Word Originearly 17th cent. (in the sense 'occupation of the same space'): from medieval Latin coincidentia, from coincidere 'coincide, agree', from co- 'together with' + incidere 'fall upon or into'.See coincidence in the Oxford Advanced American DictionarySee coincidence in the Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English Definition: Accidentally, without prior planning. If something happens by chance, no one has planned for it to happen. It is an accident, a random occurrence, and it may or may not happen again. Usually, people are glad for it to have happened; it implies a happy coincidence rather than a bad piece of luck, and people tend to ascribe it to fate or destiny, particularly if it ended up having larger ramifications. For example, someone might have met his wife by chance at a party he wasn't going to go to, but he ended up marrying the person. In an example such as this, it is common to say that fate must have had a hand in the meeting. Origin of By Chance The original meaning of chance is mere occurrence, and it comes from around the year 1300. It is unclear when it was joined with the preposition by to take on its current meaning, but we do know that people were using it as far back as Shakespeare's time. In one of his last plays, The Winter's Tale from 1611, Shakespeare wrote, Though I am not naturally honest, I am so sometimes by chance. Another quite famous use of the phrase was by William Cowper in 1782, who said, A fool must now and then be right, by chance. Examples of By Chance In the modern day, people use by chance to talk about anything that has happened accidentally. For example, someone might say We met on the street by chance but had a nice lunch together, -or- I only went to Poland by chance, but it was one of my favorite trips. When describing the behavior of something, one might say, While world events can influence stocks, they also at times fluctuate by mere chance. More Examples The mathematician John Allen Paulos talks about some stocks, mutual funds, or analysts doing well over a period of time, merely by chance. -Huffington Post India The actor believes that nobody becomes an actor by chance, a lot of hard work is required to prove yourself in the industry. -Times of India Summary If something happens by chance, it happens without prior planning. It is random and spontaneous, and it often, but not always, implies luck. LEARNDICTIONARYVOCABULARY LISTSTEST PREP Fortuitous means by chance, like a lucky accident. If you and your best friend's families happen to go on vacation to the same place at the same time, that's a fortuitous coincidence! Something fortuitous is random like an accident, but there's no downside. A rock falling on your head is an accident, dollar bills falling on your head is fortuitous. The meaning of fortuitous is changing from "happening by chance" to "lucky chance" because people get it mixed up with fortunate. But watch out: If you say fortuitous to mean just plain lucky without the element of chance -- that's a usage error. Definitions of fortuitous adjective occurring by happy chance "profits were enhanced by a fortuitous drop in the cost of raw materials" Synonyms: fortunate having unexpected good fortune adjective having no cause or apparent cause "fortuitous encounters--strange accidents of fortune" synonyms: causeless, uncaused unintended not deliberate Commonly confused words Get our your lucky rabbit's foot! Fortunate is lucky, but fortuitous means by chance or accident. Silly rabbit, these words aren't the same. Continue reading... For Everyone For Educators Help Leaderboards Vocabulary Bowl Bowl Leaders Today's Leaders Weekly Leaders Monthly Leaders Connect Vocabulary.com Blog News & Events Tell us what you think Our Story Our Mission Team / Jobs Partnerships Copyright © 2022 Vocabulary.com, Inc., a division of IXL Learning • All Rights Reserved. noun something that happens unexpectedly, without being planned noun a situation in which separate things happen by chance at the same time or in the same way noun informal something that happens unexpectedly because of an accident or good luck verb to do something by chance at a particular moment adverb by chance, as the result of an accident adverb used for saying that something happens by chance phrase something that happens by chance and that helps you to achieve something During sleep, your mind keeps working while your body is at rest, creating dreams in the process. If you wake up one morning with a strong memory of a dream, you might wonder if it means something. Here are five common dreams you might have experienced, and their meanings.Someone Is Chasing YouNeuroscientists still aren't completely sure whether dreams mean anything significant, but these thoughts and images might reflect issues your subconscious mind is trying to process. A dream in which someone is chasing you is a common dream and can feel like more of a nightmare. This scary dream experience could mean you're running from something or feeling a loss of control in your life. It may be a symbol of fear in work, love or some other aspect of your life. It could be an unconscious indication nudging you that it's time to make a change.You're FallingAnother common dream is one of falling from a high place. Some dream interpreters see this as a sign that you're running from a problem or avoiding a conflict situation. An animal chasing you before the fall could mean that you're personally trying to handle the problem as it affects you. If a mysterious person or apparition is chasing you, there's a possibility that you're haunted by a past experience.Snakes in Your DreamsSnake dreams can be especially alarming. Three possible theories surround the snake dream interpretation. One idea is that the snake signifies a hidden threat you may not know of yet, so it serves as a warning. A second theory is the snake symbolizing a dangerous temptation you could be contemplating. The final theory is that the snake is actually a positive sign of mending and healing.Dreaming of the DeadDreaming of the dead can be an emotional experience, but the potential meanings may not be as ominous. One meaning suggests that dreaming of a dead person you once knew is a way to work through your loss. This goes a little further if the person has been gone for a long time but has similar traits to someone you currently know. In this case, you could be trying to figure out how to handle the current relationship.Dreams of FlyingDreaming of flying can represent a sense of letting go and feeling independent. On the other hand, some interpreters see the flying as an indication of wanting to get away from something or someone. Aside from the meanings, a dream about flying can evoke two different feelings. You might have an exhilarating feeling of joy as you soar through the air, or you could feel afraid while you're flying. MORE FROM QUESTIONSANSWERED.NET

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