

‘Lucky’ Golf Items Might Actually Work, According to Study

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The U.S. Open is back at Torrey Pines this week, for the first time since the most memorable moment of my life as a golf fan: Tiger Woods, sporting a broken leg and a one-shot deficit, draining a slippery 12ft birdie putt to send the contest into a playoff. If he missed, the tournament would be over, with Rocco Mediate crowned your 2008 U.S. Open champion.

But this is Tiger Woods we’re talking about. I still can’t believe this putt actually went in.

Putts like this don’t go in for any one reason. It’s a combination of technical brilliance, mental acuity, overall skill, God-given talent, and a little bit of luck. We’ve talked plenty about those first four things in regards to Tiger Woods, so today we’re interested in the fifth: Luck! And specifically, how you might be able to use it to help you play better golf.

‘I’d rather be lucky than good’

That day, Tiger had two lucky charms in-play: His [Tiger headcover](#), and his [legendary red shirt](#) — both good items courtesy of his mother.

Golf fans for the most part consider those two things a fun, if ultimately inconsequential, factor in his game. And they’re probably right — but those two lucky items may be more than that, according to a [2010 study by Lysann Damisch, an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Cologne in Germany, published in the journal *Psychological Science*.](#)

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