

Basic Probability:

Probability is **the measure of the likelihood that an event will occur.**

Ways to find out probabilities:

Suppose you have a bag with 10 dice, and 4 of them are green.

If you pull of a die at random, what's the probability that you will draw a green die?

A. Empirically (Experimentally): Do a bunch of tests and tally up how many times you get a green die.

Green Die	Not Green	Total Trials
		

The probability that you will get green is $P(\text{green}) = \frac{\text{\# of times you got green}}{\text{\# of trials}} = \frac{6}{10} = .60 \text{ or } 60\%$

The more trials you do, the better results you'll get.

B. Theoretically (with math): $P(\text{of an event}) = \frac{\text{\# of ways the event can occur}}{\text{\# of possible events}}$

So $P(\text{green}) = \frac{\text{\# of green dice}}{\text{\# of dice total}} = \frac{4}{10} = .40 \text{ or } 40\%$

Why are they different? The experimental probability will approach the value of the theoretical probability, but you have to do the experiment many, MANY times.

Basic Rules of Probability:

1. Probability of a certain event: $P(\text{you draw any color die}) = 1 \text{ or } 100\%$

2. Probability of an impossible event: $P(\text{purple die}) = 0 \text{ or } 0\%$

All probabilities will lie somewhere between these two extremes.

3. The complement of an event: Let's define "A" as the event: "drawing a green die".

The complement of A is denoted, $\sim A \text{ or } A' \text{ or } A^c$, and represents the event "not drawing a green die".

Probability that something will happen = $P(\text{green die}) + P(\text{not a green die}) = P(A) + P(\sim A) = 1$

Odds: Odds are calculated a little differently than probability.

Probability of drawing green = $\frac{\text{\# of green dice}}{\text{\# of dice total}} = \frac{4}{10}$

Odds of drawing green = $\text{\# of green dice} : \text{\# of dice total} = 4 : 6$

Ex: Find the

	Probability	&	Odds:
a. When flipping a coin: having tails showing?	$\frac{1}{2}$		1 : 1
b. When rolling die: getting an even number?	$\frac{3}{6} = \frac{1}{2}$		3 : 3
c. When drawing a card from a deck: getting a heart?	$\frac{13}{52} = \frac{1}{4}$		13 : 39