Chance – ordering events

Chance is the likelihood of something happening. If something will definitely happen, we say it is certain.

If something has an even chance of happening, it means that it is just as likely to happen as it is unlikely to happen.

If something can't happen it is impossible.



Read each statement and circle the chance of it happening:

| | Event | Chance |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| а | A baby is born a girl. | impossible / even / certain |
| b | Christmas Day will fall on December 25 this year. | impossible / even / certain |
| С | A coin is tossed and the result is a tail. | impossible / even / certain |
| d | 6 red counters are placed in a bag and a yellow one is drawn. | impossible / even / certain |

Draw a line to match each spinner to the correct statement:







It is certain that this spinner will land on stripes.

Chance – ordering events





2

SERIES

TOPIC

Chance – probability

Probability is the measure of how likely something is to happen. Look at the bowl of balls.

The expected probability of choosing a black ball is 2 out of 5.

This is because out of 5 possible balls that could be chosen, 2 are black.

However, expected results can be different to actual results. For instance if we chose a ball without looking 5 times and it was black each time, this would be surprising, but not impossible.



Place the following cubes in a bag: 4 red, 6 yellow and 2 green.

a Record the expected probability of choosing each colour.

| Colour | Probability |
|--------|-------------|
| Red | 4 out of 12 |
| Yellow | |
| Green | |



b If I chose a cube 12 times and it was green each time, would this be surprising?

Yes / No

Let's look at what actually happens. Use the cubes from question 1.

a Without looking, choose a cube and record its colour by placing a tick next to the colour in the table below. Repeat twelve times and record the result.

| Colour | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Red | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yellow | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Green | | | | | | | | | | | | |

b Was there much difference between what you expected to happen and what actually happened?



Chance – probability

3 Spin it! This is an investigation where you are going to make two spinners and look at the chance of the arrow landing on certain colours.





Chance – probability

Continued from page 4.

e Now you can begin the investigation. First, let's make some predictions based upon the expected probability.

| Spinner 1 | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Colour Probability | | | | | | | |
| red 2 out of 6 | | | | | | | |
| blue | | | | | | | |
| Most like | Most likely colour is | | | | | | |
| Least likely colour is | | | | | | | |

| Spinner 2 | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Colour Probability | | | | | | | |
| green | 2 out of 6 | | | | | | |
| red | | | | | | | |
| blue | | | | | | | |
| Most likely colour is | | | | | | | |
| Least likely colour is | | | | | | | |

f Now spin each spinner 12 times and tick to record the colour each spinner landed on:
Results for Spinner 1

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| red | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| blue | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Results for Spinner 2

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| green | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| red | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| blue | | | | | | | | | | | | |

- g What was expected about your results?
- h What was surprising about your results?



Chance – fair and unfair

When everyone has the same chance of winning a game, it is fair. When there is not the same chance for everyone to win, the game is unfair. Look at these spinners. If landing on black scores 1 point, then these spinners are unfair because there is a greater chance of landing on black with Spinner 2 than there is with Spinner 1.



Bec and Drew are about to play a game where if their spinner lands on dots, they score 1 point.



- **b** Cross out the unfair spinner.
- c Why is the spinner that you crossed out unfair?

For this activity, you will need to look at a die.

a Complete this table to show the chance of rolling certain numbers:

| Number rolled | Probability |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| A 2 | 1 out of 6 |
| An odd number | |
| An even number | |
| A number greater than 4 | |

b Tom invents a game where if a die lands on an odd number you win a point and if the die lands on a number greater than 4 you win a point. Is this game fair? Why or why not?



Chance – coin investigation

If we toss 2 coins, we can expect 4 possible outcomes.

If we use a table to show the possible outcomes of tossing 2 coins 4 times, we would expect it to look like this: —

Would it be possible for the coins to land on HH 4 times? Yes it would, however, it would be a surprising result.

Complete these experiments:

a Toss 2 coins 8 times and show the results on this table:



Possible outcomes



b Repeat this experiment again, and show the results on this table:

Possible outcomes



c Were your results in question a and b surprising? Why or why not?



We can work out all the possible outcomes of an event. When we looked at what we could expect to happen when we tossed two coins, we saw that there are four possible outcomes.

What can we expect to happen when we roll two dice and add the numbers?

Fill in this table to show the possible outcomes when two dice are rolled and added together.



a How many possible outcomes are there?

| + | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | | | | | |
| 2 | | 4 | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | |

b Graph the expected outcomes in the grid below:

Expected outcomes of two dice 6 5 Number of outcomes 4 3 2 1 5 2 3 4 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 **Possible totals c** The chance of rolling a 7 is _____ out of 36. **d** The chance of rolling a 2 is _____ out of 36. Continued on page 9.



Chance – two dice investigation

Continued from page 8.

e Now see what happens in real life. Work with a partner. Roll two dice 36 times. When an actual total comes up, tick the column.



Probability is the measure of how likely something is to happen but things don't always turn out exactly as we would expect.



f Look at difference between the 'Expected outcomes' graph (on page 8) and the 'Actual outcomes' graph (above).

What happened? Were the actual outcomes surprising?

2 Three kids were playing a bingo game where if you rolled two dice and added the numbers, you can cross out a number if it's on the bingo card. Put a ring around the card that you would expect to win.









Roll and release

apply



This is a game for two players. Each player will need two dice, 12 counters and a copy of pages 10 and 11.





The object of this game is to be the first player to release all of the prisoners. Each player places all 12 counters (these are the prisoners) in the prison cells numbered 2–12. There can be any amount of prisoners in a cell.

Player 1 rolls the dice, adds the numbers and removes the prisoners from that cell. They must record the dice total they rolled by ticking the column on the recording grid after each turn.

Player 2 repeats this process. The winner is the player who releases all of their prisoners first.



Recording grid

Total of dice



Play this game several times. Look at the numbers that have the most ticks. How can this help you place your counters better next time so that you have more chance of winning? Or is there a better way to find out expected outcomes for the total of the dice?



Roll and release

apply





