

### Compound Events

**Compound event:** an event that is made up of two or more events.

**Independent events:** events that have no effect on the outcome of each other. If two events, A and B, are said to be independent, they follow this formula:  $P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A \cap B) = P(A) \cdot P(B)$

**Dependent events:** events that affect the outcome of each other.

**Mutually exclusive events:** events that cannot happen at the same time. If events A and B are mutually exclusive, they must follow this formula:  $P(A \cap B) = 0$ , and  $P(A \text{ or } B) = P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$

**Overlapping events:** events that have outcomes in common. If events A and B are overlapping, they follow this formula:  $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$

### Identifying Independent and Dependent Events

Are the outcomes of each trial independent or dependent events?

- A** Choose a number tile from 12 tiles. Then spin a spinner.

The choice of number tile does not affect the spinner result. The events are independent.

- B** Pick one card from a set of 15 sequentially numbered cards. Then, without replacing the card, pick another card.

The first card chosen affects possible outcomes of the second pick, so the events are dependent.

### Finding the Probability of Independent Events

A desk drawer contains 5 red pens, 6 blue pens, 3 black pens, 24 silver paper clips, and 16 white paper clips. If you select a pen and a paper clip from the drawer without looking, what is the probability that you select a blue pen and a white paper clip?

**Step 1** Let  $A$  = selecting a blue pen. Find the probability of  $A$ .

$$P(A) = \frac{6}{14} = \frac{3}{7} \qquad 5 + 6 + 3 = 14 = \text{Total}$$

**Step 2** Let  $B$  = selecting a white paper clip. Find the probability of  $B$ .

$$P(B) = \frac{16}{40} = \frac{2}{5} \qquad 24 + 16 = 40 = \text{Total}$$

**Step 3** Find  $P(A \text{ and } B)$ .

$$P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A \cap B) = P(A) \cdot P(B) = \frac{3}{7} \cdot \frac{2}{5} = \frac{6}{35} \approx 0.171 \text{ or } 17.1\%$$

The probability that you select a blue pen and a white paper clip is about 17.1%.

## Using Probabilities to Test for Independence

**Manufacturing** A factory foreman determines that on any given day there is a 15% chance that Machine A will malfunction, a 45% chance that Machine B will malfunction, and a 6.75% chance that both machines will malfunction. Are the events "Machine A malfunctions" and "Machine B malfunctions" independent events? Explain.

**A** What are the zeros of the function?

Let  $A$  = Machine A malfunctions, and  
 $B$  = Machine B malfunctions.

**Step 1** Write each probability as a decimal.

$$P(A) = 15\% = 0.15$$

$$P(B) = 45\% = 0.45$$

$$P(A \cap B) = 6.75\% = 0.0675$$

**Step 2** Check whether the relationship  $P(A \cap B) = P(A) \cdot P(B)$  is true.

$$P(A \cap B) \stackrel{?}{=} P(A) \cdot P(B)$$

$$0.0675 = 0.15 \cdot 0.45$$

$$0.0675 = 0.0675 \checkmark \text{ True}$$

Because  $P(A \cap B) = P(A) \cdot P(B)$ , the events "Machine A malfunctions" and "Machine B malfunctions" are independent.

## Finding the Probability of Mutually Exclusive Events

**Athletics** Student athletes at a local high school may participate in only one sport each season. During the fall season, 28% of student athletes play basketball and 24% are on the swim team. What is the probability that a randomly selected student athlete plays basketball or is on the swim team?

Because athletes participate in only one sport each season, the events are mutually exclusive. Use the formula  $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{basketball or swim team}) &= P(\text{basketball}) + P(\text{swim team}) \\ \downarrow \cup &= 28\% + 24\% = 52\% \end{aligned}$$

The probability of an athlete either playing basketball or being on the swim team is 52%.

## Finding Probabilities of Overlapping Events

What is the probability of rolling either an even number or a multiple of 3 when rolling a standard number cube?

### Know

You are rolling a standard number cube. The events are overlapping events because 6 is both even and a multiple of 3.

### Need

You need the probability of rolling an even number and the probability of rolling a multiple of 3.

### Plan

Find the probabilities and use the formula for probabilities of overlapping events.

$$\begin{aligned}
 P(\text{even} \cup \text{multiple of 3}) &= P(\text{even}) + P(\text{multiple of 3}) - P(\text{even and multiple of 3}) \\
 S = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6\} & \\
 &= \frac{3}{6} + \frac{2}{6} - \frac{1}{6} \\
 &= \frac{4}{6} \\
 &= \frac{2}{3}
 \end{aligned}$$

The probability of rolling an even or a multiple of 3 is

### Practice

1) Determine whether the outcomes of each trial are independent or dependent events?

a. A card is randomly chosen from a standard deck of cards, then replaced; another card is chosen at random.

b. Asking a student's age, and asking what year he or she expects to graduate.

a) Independent      b) Dependent

2) You spin a spinner (circle divided into 4 equal sections labeled 1, 2, 3, and 4), without looking. You also choose a tile from a set of tiles numbered from 1 to 10. Find each probability. *These are independent events*

a. P(spinner lands on an odd number, and you choose an even number)

$$a) P(A \cap B) = P(A) \cdot P(B) = \frac{2}{4} \cdot \frac{5}{10} = \frac{10}{40} = \frac{1}{4}$$

b. P(spinner lands on a number less than 4, and you choose a 9 or 10)

$$b) P(C \cap D) = P(C) \cdot P(D) = \frac{3}{4} \cdot \frac{2}{10} = \frac{6}{40} = \frac{3}{20}$$

$$A = \{1, 3\} \quad B = \{2, 4, 6, 8, 10\} \quad C = \{1, 2, 3\} \quad D = \{9, 10\}$$

3) Use the given probabilities below to determine whether events A and B are independent.

a.  $P(A) = 0.3$ ,  $P(B) = 0.4$ ,  $P(A \text{ and } B) = 0.7$

b.  $P(A) = \frac{2}{3}$ ,  $P(B) = \frac{4}{5}$ ,  $P(A \text{ and } B) = \frac{8}{15}$

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A) \cdot P(B)$$

$$\frac{8}{15} = \frac{2}{3} \cdot \frac{4}{5}$$

$$\frac{8}{15} = \frac{8}{15} \quad \checkmark$$

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A) \cdot P(B) \Leftrightarrow 0.7 \neq 0.3 \cdot 0.4 = 0.12$$

4) A bag contains 3 blue chips, 6 black chips, 2 green chips, and 4 red chips. Find the probability of each.

a. P(green chip or red chip)

A = green chip  
B = red chip

b. P(blue, black, or red chip)

$$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) = \frac{2}{15} + \frac{4}{15} = \frac{6}{15} = \frac{2}{5}$$

$$P(C \cup D \cup E) = P(C) + P(D) + P(E) = \frac{3}{15} + \frac{6}{15} + \frac{4}{15} = \frac{13}{15} \quad \therefore \text{Yes, independent.}$$

5) A set of cards contains four suits (red, blue, green, and yellow). In each suit there are cards, numbered from 1 to 10. Find each probability. *So 10 red, 10 blue, 10 green, and 10 yellow cards*

a. P(green or yellow card, or card numbered 1)

b. P(red or blue card, or card less than 6)

$$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B) = \frac{20}{40} + \frac{4}{40} - \frac{2}{40} = \frac{22}{40} = \frac{11}{20}$$

$$P(C \cup D) = P(C) + P(D) - P(C \cap D) = \frac{20}{40} + \frac{20}{40} - \frac{10}{40} = \frac{30}{40} = \frac{3}{4}$$

6) Suppose A and B are independent events. What is  $P(A \cap B)$  if  $P(A) = 50\%$  and  $P(B) = 25\%$ ?

Independent follows  $P(A \cap B) = P(A) \cdot P(B) = 0.50 \cdot 0.25 = 0.125$  or  $12.5\% = P(A \cap B)$

7) Suppose A and B are mutually exclusive events. What is  $P(A \cup B)$  if  $P(A) = 0.6$  and  $P(B) = 0.25$ ?

8) Suppose A and B are overlapping events. What is  $P(A \cup B)$  if  $P(A) = \frac{1}{3}$ ,  $P(B) = \frac{1}{2}$ , and  $P(A \cap B) = \frac{1}{5}$ ?

mutually exclusive:  $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$   
 $= 0.6 + 0.25$   
 $= 0.85$  or  $85\%$

$$\begin{aligned}
 8) P(A \cup B) &= P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B) \\
 &= \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{5} = \frac{10}{30} + \frac{15}{30} - \frac{6}{30} \\
 &= \frac{19}{30}
 \end{aligned}$$

*overlapping events*