

Compound Events

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

Independent events: events that have no affect 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 the 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 .

$$P(A) = \frac{6}{14} = \frac{3}{7} \quad \text{6 blue pens out of 14 pens}$$

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

$$P(B) = \frac{16}{40} = \frac{2}{5} \quad \text{16 white paper clips out of 40 clips}$$

Step 3 Find $P(A \text{ and } B)$. Use the formula for the probability of independent events.

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

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.

$$P(A) = 15\% = 0.15 \quad P(B) = 45\% = 0.45$$

$$P(A \text{ and } B) = 6.75\% = 0.0675$$

Step 2 Check whether the relationship $P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A) \cdot P(B)$ is true.

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

$$0.0675 \stackrel{?}{=} 0.15 \cdot 0.45$$

$$0.0675 = 0.0675 \checkmark$$

Because $P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A) \cdot P(B)$, 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 $P(A \text{ or } B) = P(A) + P(B)$.

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{basketball or swim team}) &= P(\text{basketball}) + P(\text{swim team}) \\ &= 28\% + 24\% = 52\% \end{aligned} \quad \text{Substitute and Simplify.}$$

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.

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

The probability of rolling an even or a multiple of 3 is $\frac{2}{3}$.

Practice

- Determine whether the outcomes of each trial are independent or dependent events?
 - A card is randomly chosen from a standard deck of cards, the replaced; another card is chosen at random.
 - Asking a student's age, and asking what year he or she expects to graduate.
- 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.
 - P(spinner lands on an odd number, and you choose an even number)
 - P(spinner lands on a number less than 4, and you choose a 9 or 10)
- Use the given probabilities below to determine whether events A and B are independent.
 - $P(A) = 0.3$, $P(B) = 0.4$, $P(A \text{ and } B) = 0.7$
 - $P(A) = \frac{2}{3}$, $P(B) = \frac{4}{5}$, $P(A \text{ and } B) = \frac{8}{15}$
- A bag contains 3 blue chips, 6 black chips, 2 green chips, and 4 red chips. Find the probability of each.
 - P(green chip or red chip)
 - P(blue, black, or red chip)
- 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.
 - P(green or yellow card, or card numbered 1)
 - P(red or blue card, or card less than 6)
- Suppose A and B are independent events. What is $P(A \cap B)$ if $P(A) = 50\%$ and $P(B) = 25\%$?
- Suppose A and B are mutually exclusive events. What is $P(A \cup B)$ if $P(A) = 0.6$ and $P(B) = 0.25$?
- 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 $P(A \cap B) = \frac{1}{5}$?