

Basic Probability – www.m4ths.com

Using Words to Describe Probabilities

A number line (probability scale) from 0 - 1 can be used to show the probability (likelihood) of something happening (and event).

(1) Use an arrow to place each of the following words on the probability scale

Unlikely	Impossible	Likely	Highly Unlikely	Certain	Even Chance	Very Unlikely
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(2) Use words to describe the probability (likelihood) of the following events.

- (a) Having snow in July in the UK.
- (b) Having snow for everyday in December in Lapland.
- (c) If it's Monday to then tomorrow it will be Tuesday.
- (d) If it's Thursday today then tomorrow it will be Monday.
- (e) Chelsea winning at least one game each season.

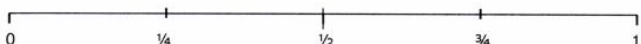
Using Numbers to Describe Probabilities

We generally use either fractions or decimals to describe probabilities.

$$\text{Probability} = \frac{\text{What we want to happen}}{\text{What could happen}}$$

(1) Use an arrow to place each of the following events on the probability scale.

Flipping a head on a fair coin.	Guessing one of the seasons at random (Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter)	Scoring an even number on a 6 sided fair dice.	Picking an odd number from the following numbers: 1, 7, 11, 13
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(2) Use either fractions or decimals to describe the probability of each of the following events.

- (a) Picking a day of the week beginning with the letter S.
- (b) Picking a day of the week bringing with the letter M.
- (c) Picking a day of the week beginning with the letter R.
- (d) Picking a vowel from the alphabet.
- (e) Picking a month beginning with the letter J
- (f) In a bag of sweets there are 7 fruit and 4 mint. Find the probability of picking a mint if one sweet is chosen.
- (g) A fair spinner has the numbers 1,2,3,4,5. Find the probability of spinning (i) an even number (ii) an odd number (iii) a prime
- (h) There are 30 students in a class. There are 12 boys. Find the probability of picking a girl if one student is chosen at random.
- (i) There are only blue beads and black beads in a bag. There are 6 blue and 5 black. What is the probability of picking a black if only one bead is chosen at random?
- (j) Fred selects the following letters: C D H O R U He chooses one at random. What is the probability that it is (i) A vowel (ii) A consonant (iii) After M in the alphabet.

(3) Draw a probability scale and place each of your answers above for questions (a) – (g) on the scale. Use an arrow!

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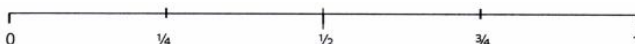
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