

Week 4: Introduction to Probability

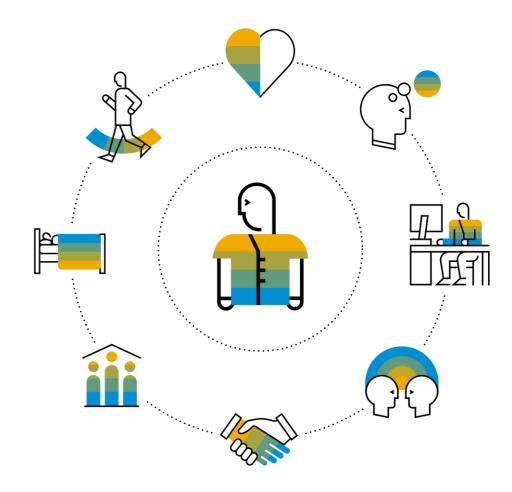
**Unit 1: Introduction to Probability** 



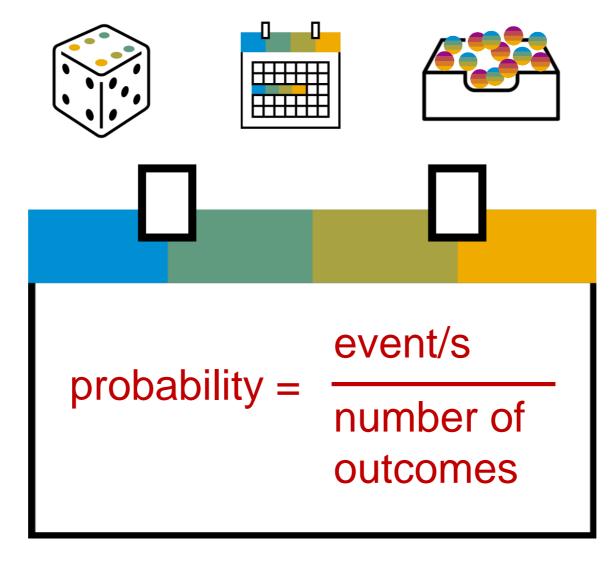


#### Introduction

There are many times in modern life where you would like to predict the likely outcome of an event or series of events.



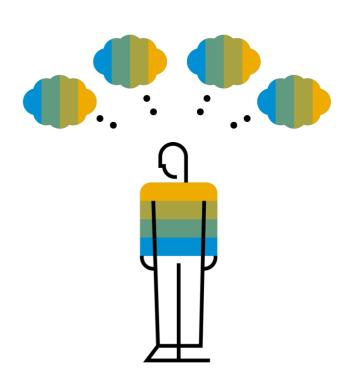
# **Introduction – More complex examples**



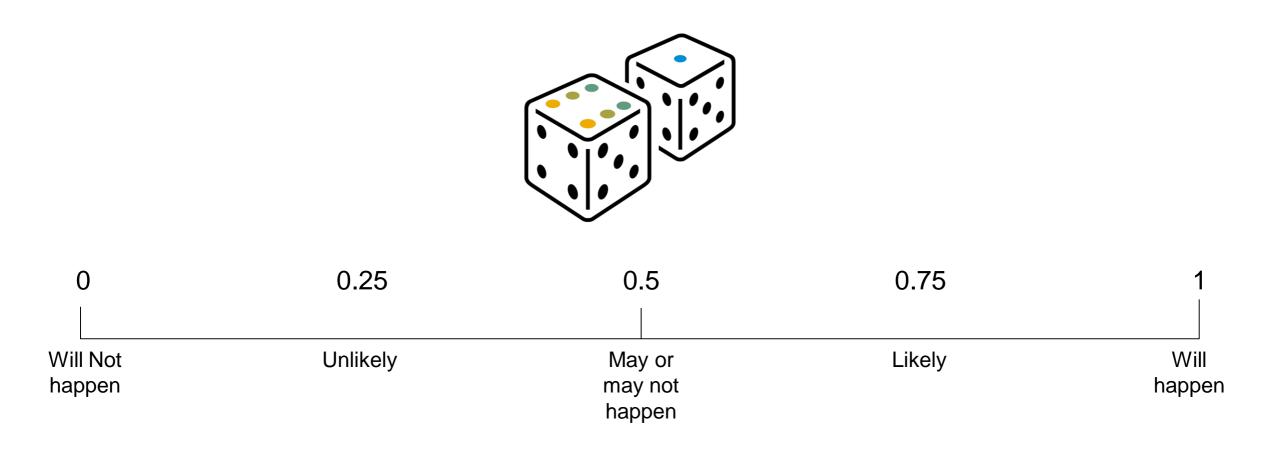
#### Some symbols

Here are some commonly used symbols and conventions:

- P(A) The probability of event A
  - The probability of throwing a six with a die P(6)
- P(A ∩ B) The probability of event A and B
  - The probability of throwing 2 sixes  $P(6 \cap 6)$
- P(A ∪ B) The probability of event A or event B
  - The probability of choosing one card from a standard deck and getting either a Queen of Hearts or King of Hearts
- P(A|B) The probability of A given prior event B
  - The probability of being diagnosed with cancer given that the patient is a smoker



# What is probability?



## How do I calculate the probability of an event?

Calculate all possible outcomes for an event (the "sample space").

- For example, there are 6 possible events (outcomes) when throwing one die:
- $S = \{1,2,3,4,5,6\}$



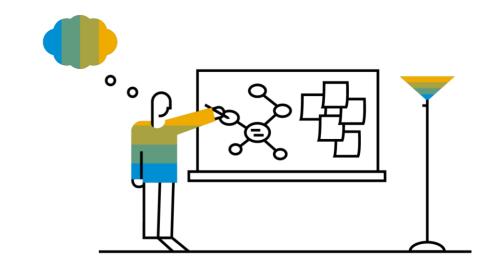
#### How do I calculate the probability of an event?

To calculate the probability of an event you use the following formula:

$$P(E) = \frac{Total\ Number\ of\ Outcomes\ for\ the\ Event}{Total\ Number\ of\ Outcomes\ in\ the\ Sample\ Space}$$

- What is the probability of throwing a six?
  - -P(E) = 1/6 = 0.16 or 16%
- What is the probability of throwing an even number?

$$-P(E) = 3/6 = 0.5 \text{ or } 50\%$$



## How do I calculate the probability of an event?



Music style	# of people who prefer
Rock	20
Disco	10
Hip Hop	15
Reggae	25
Classical	30
Total	100



If you choose a random person, what is the likelihood that they like classical music?

P(E) = Frequency for classical / Total frequencies in table

P(E) = 30/100 = 0.3

## **Summary**

- You can calculate the likelihood of an event or series of events using probability.
- You need to understand all possible outcomes in the "sample space" and the particular event or group of events you are analyzing.



# Thank you.

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