

1 Counting is Easy

1.1 Concepts

- Given two positive integers a and b such that $b \geq a$, there are $b - a + 1$ integers between a and b , inclusive.
- The total number of ways that event **A** and event **B** can occur is:

$$(\text{number of ways event } \mathbf{A} \text{ can occur}) \times (\text{number of ways event } \mathbf{B} \text{ can occur}).$$

- We can arrange n items in $n!$ ways, where

$$n! = n \times (n - 1) \times (n - 2) \times \cdots \times 2 \times 1.$$

- We can arrange k items from a group of n items in $P(n, k)$ ways, where

$$P(n, k) = n \times (n - 1) \times \cdots \times (n - k + 2) \times (n - k + 1) = \frac{n!}{(n - k)!}.$$

This is known as permutation.

1.2 Review Problems

1. How many integers are in the sequence $13, 14, 15, \dots, 113$?
2. How many integers are in the sequence $5, 9, 13, \dots, 657$?
3. A phone has a password mechanism that uses the digits 0 through 9. If a password consists of four digits, where each digit may be used more than once, how many distinct passwords exist?
4. The Seneca Valley Math Club has 12 members. How many ways can the club assign a President, a Vice President, and a Treasurer, where each member may only hold one position?

1.3 Review Problem Solutions

1. If we subtract 12 from each term in the sequence, we end up with the sequence

$$1, 2, 3, \dots, 101.$$

Because this new sequence contains the same number of terms as the original sequence, it suffices to count the number of terms in the new sequence. Counting the terms in our new sequence gives us an answer of $\boxed{101}$.

Alternatively, we can use the method described in **1.1 Concepts**:

$$113 - 13 + 1 = \boxed{101}.$$

2. Subtracting 1 from each term and then dividing by 4 generates the sequence

$$1, 2, 3, \dots, 164.$$

Clearly, this new sequence has 164 terms, so our answer is $\boxed{164}$.

3. We have 10 options for our first digit, 10 options for our second digit, and so on. Thus, our answer is

$$10 \times 10 \times 10 \times 10 = 10^4 = \boxed{10000}.$$

4. We can assign the position of President to one of the 12 members. We then can assign the position of Vice President to one of 11 remaining members. Finally, we can assign the position of Treasurer to one of the 10 remaining members. This gives a total of $12 \times 11 \times 10 = \boxed{1320}$ ways to assign every role.

1.4 Challenge Problems

1. How many 3-digit numbers are perfect squares?
2. The positive five-digit integers that use each of the digits 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 exactly once are ordered from least to greatest. What is the 50th integer in the list?
3. How many multiples of 9^3 are greater than 9^4 and less than 9^5 ? (Source: MathCounts 2004 Workout 6)
4. Elodie is putting on a fashion show and has five fabulous outfits for her five fabulous fashion models. However, on the day of the show, two of the outfits were ruined in an unfortunate permanent marker incident. Regardless, the show must go on and the remaining outfits will be presented. If each outfit can only be worn by one model and there is no time for any model to wear more than one dress, how many different shows can Elodie put on? (Note: Two shows are considered the same if they contain the same models wearing the same dresses.)
5. How many different rational numbers between $1/1000$ and 1000 can be written either as a power of 2 or as a power of 3, where the exponent is a (possibly negative) integer?

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6. How many of the factorials from $1!$ to $100!$ are divisible by 9? (Source: Introduction to Counting & Probability Chapter 1)
 7. License plates from different states follow different alpha-numeric formats, which dictate which characters of a plate must be letters and which must be numbers. Florida has license plates with an alpha-numeric format of 4 letters followed by 2 digits. North Dakota, on the other hand, has a different format of 3 letters followed by 3 digits. Assuming all 10 digits are equally likely to appear in the numeric positions, and all 26 letters are equally likely to appear in the alpha positions, how many more license plates can Florida issue than North Dakota?
 8. (a) How many ways can you distinctly arrange the letters of **DAVIS**?
(b) How many ways can you distinctly arrange the letters of **DAVID**?
 9. There are 6 books on a shelf. The books are colored red, green, blue, yellow, purple, and pink. How many ways can you arrange the books on the shelf such that the red and green books are together?
 10. Seven superheroes visit the local Superhero Convention. Each superhero shakes hands with all the other superheroes exactly once. How many handshakes take place?