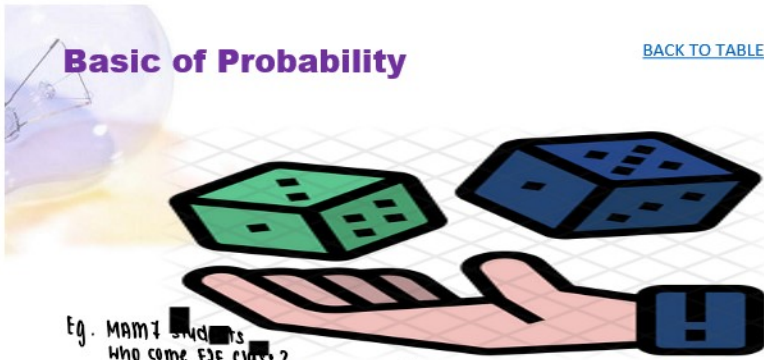


# Basic of Probability

[BACK TO TABLE OF CONTENT](#)



Eg. MAMT students  
Who come for class?

eg.  $S = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 26\}$

eg. 26 students = 26 outcomes

eg. come for X come for class

Outcome = sample point

In probability, an **experiment** has a number of **outcomes**. Each outcome is called a **sample point** and the **sample space** of an experiment is **all possible outcomes**. An **event** is a **subset** of the **sample space**.

Consider the spinner shown here. If **event A** is defined as 'an even number' and **event B** is defined as 'a multiple of 3', then:

$$A = \{2, 4, 6, 8, 10\}$$

$$\text{and } B = \{3, 6, 9\}.$$

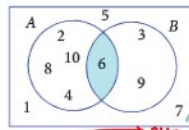
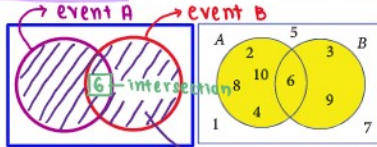
The **sample space S** is the set of individual possible occurrences, so in this case,  $S = \{1, 2, 3, \dots, 10\}$ .



The **union** ( $\cup$ ) of A and B is the combination of **either event A or event B or both A and B** occurring. So  $A \cup B = \{2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10\}$ .

The **intersection** ( $\cap$ ) of A and B is the event that **both A and B occur** and **includes the sample points** that are **common** to A and B. So  $A \cap B = \{6\}$ .

Venn diagrams are used to visualise events, using circles in a rectangle to represent S.



cannot be A = not 2, 4, 6, 8, 10

cannot be B = not 3, 6, 9

The **probability** of an event is the **likelihood** or **chance** of it occurring, so  $P(A) = \frac{5}{10}$  and  $P(A \cup B) = \frac{7}{10}$ .

## IMPORTANT

The **probability** of an event A in a sample space S is written as  $P(A)$  and is a real number between 0 and 1. The probability of the sample space,  $P(S) = 1$  and the probability of a union of disjoint events is the sum of their probabilities.

For a finite sample space whose elements have equal probabilities,

$$P(A) = \frac{\text{number of favourable outcomes}}{\text{total number of possible outcomes}} = \frac{n(A)}{n(S)}$$

If  $P(A) = 1$ , then event A is **certain** to occur.

If  $P(A) = 0$ , then event A is **impossible**.

The **complement** of event A is represented as  $A'$  or  $\bar{A}$ .  $A'$  means 'not A', so  $P(A')$  is the probability that A will not occur.

$$P(A) + P(A') = 1$$

$$P(A') = 1 - P(A)$$

## PROBABILITY

→ possibility = likelihood  
= chances

→ range:  $0\% \leq P(\text{any event}) \leq 100\%$   
 $0 \leq P(\text{any event}) \leq 1$

→ representation: → decimal (4s.f.)  
→ fraction

You can use Venn diagrams, tree diagrams, tables and grids to help calculate the probabilities of events. You can also use the following rules.

## IMPORTANT

The **addition rule** of probability states that:

$$P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B) \quad \text{= in standard formula sheet}$$

$P(A \cup B)$  is also written as  $P(A \text{ or } B)$ .

$P(A \cap B)$  is also written as  $P(A \text{ and } B)$ .

**Mutually exclusive** events cannot occur simultaneously, so  $P(A \cap B) = 0$ . For mutually

$$\text{Eg. } A = \{2, 4, 6, 8, 10\}$$

$$B = \{3, 6, 9\}$$

$$A \cup B = \{2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10\}$$

$$A \cap B = \{6\}$$

$P(A \cup B)$  is also written as  $P(A \text{ or } B)$ .

$P(A \cap B)$  is also written as  $P(A \text{ and } B)$ .

**Mutually exclusive** events cannot occur simultaneously, so  $P(A \cap B) = 0$ . For mutually exclusive events:  $P(A \cup B) = P(A) + P(B)$

The **conditional probability** of event  $A$  given event  $B$  is written as  $P(A|B)$  or 'the probability of  $A$  given  $B$ ' and defined as  $P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}$ .

The **multiplication rule** for any events  $A$  and  $B$  is  $P(A \cap B) = P(A|B) \times P(B)$ .

Events are **independent** if  $P(A|B) = P(A)$ . The outcome of one does not affect the probability of the other, so  $P(A \cap B) = P(A) \times P(B)$ .

Please try the revision exercises on probability below:

### ☺ Revision Exercises

$$P(A|B) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)} \quad / \quad P(B|A) = \frac{P(B \cap A)}{P(A)}$$

$$P(B|A) = P(B)$$

$$A \cap B = \{6\}$$

$$\textcircled{1} P(A) = \frac{5}{10} = 0.5 = 50\%$$

$$\textcircled{2} P(B) = \frac{3}{10} = 0.3 = 30\%$$

$$\textcircled{3} P(A \cup B) = \frac{7}{10} = 0.7 = 70\%$$

$$\textcircled{4} P(A \cap B) = \frac{1}{10} = 0.1 = 10\%$$

$$\textcircled{5} P(A') = \frac{5}{10} = 0.5 = 50\%$$

$$\textcircled{6} P(B') = \frac{7}{10} = 0.7 = 70\%$$

normal

Type of events

mutually exclusive

↳ both events cannot happen at same time

↳ eg. day & night

independent

↳ both events can happen at same time

↳ But! it wouldn't affect the results of the other

	$P(A \cup B)$	$P(A \cap B)$	$P(A B)$	$P(B A)$
mutually exclusive	$P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$	$P(A B) \times P(B)$	$\frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(B)}$	$\frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(A)}$
independent	$P(A) + P(B)$	0	0	0
normal	$P(A) + P(B) - (P(A) \times P(B))$	$P(A) \times P(B)$	$P(A)$	$P(B)$