

4.1 What is Probability?

1. Summary box on page 137 pretty much sums up the key points.
2. A statistical experiment is any random activity that results in a definite outcome. Give examples like drawing cards, rolling dice, spinning the big wheel on “The Price is Right”, etc.
 - Sample space - The set of all outcomes of an experiment
 - Simple event - a single element of the sample space
 - Event - any subset of the sample space
 - Give an example of these terms say with dice rolling, playing cards, roulette, etc.
 - Probability will always be a value between 0 and 1 (inclusive). State what it means when an event has probability 0 or 1.
 - I don't care if students use fractions, decimals, or percentages.

3. Notation

- $P(A)$.
- $P(A^c)$.
- $P(A) + P(A^c) = 1$.

4. Computed by

- Theoretical design and counting simple events. Be sure to emphasize formula of

$$P(A) = \frac{\text{Number of outcomes in } A}{\text{Number of all possible outcomes}}.$$

- Empirical data and relative frequencies. Include the statement of the law of large numbers. Also emphasize that these methods will always **approximate** the probability of an event and is possible to never attain the exact value with such methods.

5. Why is probability relevant to statistics?

- Probability is about assigning a likelihood to a particular outcome of an unknown experiment. The most relevant situation is assigning probabilities to sampling from a **known** population.
- Statistics is about using the results of sampling to infer information about an **unknown property** of the population.

4.2 Some Probability Rules—Compound Events

1. There are some formulas in this section, but often I try to de-emphasize them in trade for “careful counting”.
2. The concept of conditional probability is always tricky for students. Carefully explain the concept with emphasis that for $P(A|B)$, the event B is **known** to have happened.
3. Note the two key terms
 - Mutually exclusive - $P(A \text{ and } B) = 0$
 - Independent - $P(A|B) = P(A)$ or equivalently $P(B|A) = P(B)$.
 - Over emphasize that $P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A) \cdot P(B)$ **only when A and B are independent events**.
4. Be sure to explain the difference between conjunctions **or** and **and**. The use of a Venn diagram will be of help.
5. Describe a standard deck of 52 cards.
 - Show how to compute $P(\text{Ace})$, $P(\text{Heart})$, $P(\text{Ace or Heart})$, $P(\text{Ace and Heart})$, $P(\text{Ace}|\text{Heart})$.
6. Provide a contingency table and compute some probabilities with it.

Employee Type	Political Affiliation			Row Total
	Democrat (D)	Republican (R)	Independent (I)	
Executive (E)	5	34	9	48
Production Worker (PW)	63	21	8	92
Column Total	68	55	17	140

- $P(D)$ and $P(E)$.
- $P(D \text{ and } E)$.
- $P(D|E)$.