

**10.2 COMBINATIONS and the BINOMIAL THEOREM**

It is not always important to count all of the different orders that a group of objects can be arranged. A **combination** is a selection of  $r$  objects from a group of  $n$  objects where the order is not important.

**Combinations of  $n$  Objects Taken  $r$  at a Time**

The number of combinations of  $r$  objects taken from a group of  $n$  distinct objects is denoted by  ${}_nC_r$  and is given by the formula:

$$\frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!}$$

1. A standard deck of 52 playing cards has 4 suits with 13 different cards in each suit. If the order in which the cards are dealt is not important, how many different 5-card hands are possible?

choosing 5 out of 52 cards  
 $n=52, r=5$

$${}_{52}C_5 = \frac{52!}{5!(52-5)!} = 2,598,960 \text{ hands}$$

2. A teacher is choosing 3 representatives from their homeroom class. If there are 28 students in the class, how many combinations of students are possible?

$${}_{28}C_3 = \frac{28!}{3!(28-3)!} = 3276 \text{ combinations of 3 students}$$

**Multiple Events**

- When finding the number of ways both an event A and an event B can occur, you need to multiply.
- When finding the number of ways that event A or event B can occur, you add.

3. How many 5 card hands are possible where all 5 cards are the same color?

choosing 1 out of 2 colors  
 and 5 out of 26 in that color:

$${}_2C_1 \cdot {}_{26}C_5 = 131,560 \text{ hands}$$

5. How many 5 cards hands are there that have either all spades or all diamonds?

choosing 5 out of 13 spades  
 or 5 out of 13 diamonds

$${}_{13}C_5 + {}_{13}C_5 = 2574 \text{ hands}$$

4. How many 5 card hands are possible where all 5 cards are the same suit?

choosing 1 of 4 suits and  
 5 out of 13 in that suit:

$${}_4C_1 \cdot {}_{13}C_5 = 5148 \text{ hands}$$

6. How many 5 card hands have 3 clubs?

3 out of 13 clubs and 2  
 out of 39 other cards

$${}_{13}C_3 \cdot {}_{39}C_2 = 286 \cdot 741 = 211926 \text{ hands}$$

7. You are going to toss 10 different coins. How many different ways will at least 4 of the coins show heads?

at least 4 show heads means 4 heads or 5 heads or 6.....  
 easier way:

subtract possibilities we don't want from the total # of possibilities  
 (use the counting principle)

$$2^{10} - {}_{10}C_0 + {}_{10}C_1 + {}_{10}C_2 + {}_{10}C_3 = 848$$

1      10      45      120

Many of the relationships among combinations can be seen in the array of numbers known as Pascal's Triangle.



- $$6C_2 = 15$$

what are the coefficients?

$$(x+y)^1 = x+y$$

$$(x+y)^2 = (x+y)(x+y) = x^2 + 2xy + y^2 \quad 1 \quad 2 \quad 1$$

$$(x+y)^3 = (x^2+2xy+y^2)(x+y) = x^3+x^2y+2x^2y+2xy^2+y^2x+y^3$$

$$= x^3 + 3x^2y + 3xy^2 + y^3$$

$$(x+y)^4 = x^4 + 4x^3y + 6x^2y^2 + 4xy^3 + y^4$$

For any positive integer  $n$ , the binomial expansion of  $(a + b)^n$  is:

$$nC_0 a^n b^0 + nC_1 a^{n-1} b^1 + nC_2 a^{n-2} b^2 + nC_3 a^{n-3} b^3 + \dots + nC_n a^0 b^n$$

1. Expand  $(x+y)^5 = x^5 + 5x^4y + 10x^3y^2 + 10x^2y^3 + 5xy^4 + y^5$

2. Expand  $(3x-2)^4$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & 1(3x)^4(-2)^0 + 4(3x)^3(-2)^1 + 6(3x)^2(-2)^2 + 4(3x)^1(-2)^3 + 1(3x)^0(-2)^4 \\
 & = 81x^4 + 4(27x^3)(-2) + 6(9x^2)(4) + 4(3x)(-8) + (16) \\
 & = 81x^4 - 216x^3 + 216x^2 - 96x + 16
 \end{aligned}$$

3. Expand  $(5x-2y)^3$

$$\begin{aligned} &= 81x^4 - 216x^3 + 216x^2 - 96x + 16 \\ &1(5x)^3(-2y)^0 + 3(5x)^2(-2y)^1 + 3(5x)^1(-2y)^2 + 1(5x)^0(-2y)^3 \\ &125x^3 + 3(25x^2)(-2y) + 3(5x)(4y^2) + (-8y^3) \\ &= 125x^3 - 150x^2y + 60xy^2 - 8y^3 \end{aligned}$$

