

# Probability Encyclopedia Article

## Probability

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# Probability

Probability is a quantity that describes the likelihood that an event will occur. If an event is almost certain to occur, the probability of the event is high. If the event is unlikely to occur, the probability is low. Probability is represented in **statistics** as a number between one and zero, and is derived from the ratio of the number of potential outcomes of interest to the number of all potential outcomes. For example, if there are 52 cards in a deck and a card player is equally likely to draw any card, then the probability of drawing hearts is  $1/4$  or 0.25%. The probability of drawing a king is  $4/52$  or 0.0769%. An event that has a probability of one will always occur and an event that has a probability of zero will never occur.