

Yahtzee probability

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Your challenge:

What is the probability of getting five 6's?



How to approach the challenge:

- This is a large and complex problem – mathematicians will start with a simple problem and work up to a complex one.

How can we simplify this problem?

- You will need a way to keep track of your thinking and attempts at solving.

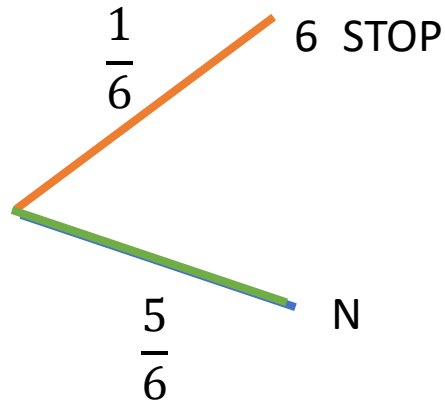
How are you going to record your ideas/workings?

- It is important that you can describe to others what you have done and be able to justify your solution.

Can you explain what you have done?

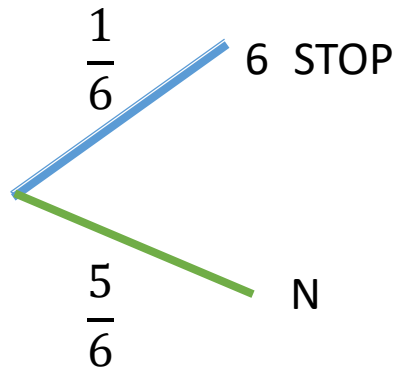
An approach to the 1 die problem:

Throw 1



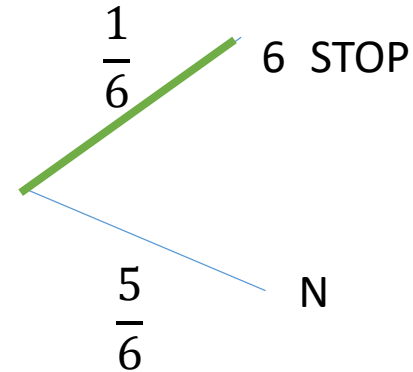
$$\text{Pr}(6 \text{ Throw1}) = 1/6$$

Throw 2



$$\text{Pr}(6 \text{ Throw2}) = \frac{5}{6} \cdot \frac{1}{6} = \frac{5}{36}$$

Throw 3



$$\text{Pr}(6 \text{ Throw3}) = \frac{5}{6} \cdot \frac{5}{6} \cdot \frac{1}{6} = \frac{25}{216}$$

$$\text{Pr}(6 \text{ in three rolls}) = \frac{1}{6} + \frac{5}{36} + \frac{25}{216} = \frac{91}{216}$$

What next?

Can you use this approach to extend the problem to 2 dice, 3 dice etc?

Good Luck!!

Solutions, maths and how to play:

- <https://www.wikihow.com/Play-Yahtzee>
- <https://www.thoughtco.com/probability-of-rolling-a-yahtzee-3126593>
- <http://datagenetics.com/blog/january42012/index.html>
- <http://mathworld.wolfram.com/Yahtzee.html>
- <http://www.yahtzee.org.uk/probability.html>