

CC Algebra 2H 7-3 Notes
Independent and Dependent Events

April 24

Two events, A and B, are **independent** if the occurrence of one event has no effect on the probability of the occurrence of the other.

Multiplication Rule for the Probability of Independent Events

If A and B are independent events, then $P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A) \cdot P(B)$.

Example 1: There are 3 red pens, 4 blue pens, and 5 black pens in a box. Suppose you choose a pen at random from the box, replace it, and then choose a second pen. Find the probability of choosing a blue pen and then a red pen, in that order.

$$P(B \& R) = \frac{4}{12} \cdot \frac{3}{12} = \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{12}$$

Example 2: What is the probability of rolling a 3 and then an even number on a cube numbered 1-6?

$$P(3 \text{ and even}) = \frac{1}{6} \cdot \frac{3}{6} = \frac{1}{6} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{12}$$

Two events, A and B, are **dependent** if the occurrence of one event affects the probability of the occurrence of the other. The probability of B given that A has occurred is called the **conditional probability** of B, given A. It is denoted $P(B|A)$.

Multiplication Rule for the Probability of Dependent Events

If A and B are dependent events, then $P(A \text{ and } B) = P(A) \cdot P(B|A)$.

Example 3: A deck of cards has 12 face cards and 40 number cards. A card is drawn from the deck and not replaced. A second card is drawn. Find the probability of drawing a number card and then a face card from the deck.

$$P(\# \text{ card and face card}) = \frac{40}{52} \times \frac{12}{51} = \frac{10}{13} \cdot \frac{4}{17} = \frac{40}{221}$$

Example 4: There are 3 red pens, 4 blue pens, and 5 black pens in a box. Suppose you choose 3 pens, one at a time, without replacement. Find the probability of choosing 1 blue, 1 black, and 1 blue pen, in that order.

$$P(\text{blue \& black \& blue}) = \frac{4}{12} \times \frac{5}{11} \times \frac{3}{10} = \frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{5}{11} \cdot \frac{3}{10} = \frac{1}{22}$$