

Counting Principles

Lesson 9.6



Counting Principles

- Are used to find the number of possible outcomes for a sequence of events
- Rules:
 - Fundamental Counting Rule
 - Permutation Rule
 - Of “ n ” elements
 - Of “ n ” elements taken “ r ” at a time
 - Distinguishable Permutations
 - Combination Rule

Fundamental Counting Principle



A combination lock has numbers from 0 to 39. It takes 3 correct numbers to unlock it. How many possible lock combinations exist?

$$\underline{40} \cdot \underline{40} = \underline{40}$$

$$64,000$$

402 -

$$\underline{8} \quad \underline{10} \quad \underline{10} \quad - \quad \underline{10} \quad \underline{10} \quad \underline{10} \quad \underline{10}$$

$$\text{Or } 8 \cdot 10^6$$

In a series of events, the number of possible outcomes can be found by multiplying the possible outcomes of each individual event. **With** or **Without** replacement?

In Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy counties, Alpha/Numeric plates are issued. If all letter combinations were available, how many distinct license plates could be formed?

26 26 26 10 10 10



Permutations (Order Matters!)

- Number of Permutations of “n” Elements
 - How many permutations are possible for the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6? $6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1$
 - Formula for permutations: $n!$ $6!$
- Number of Permutations of “n” Elements Taken “r” at a Time
 - Twelve runners are running in a race. In how many ways can these athletes come in first, second, and third?

• Formula: ${}^n P_r = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!}$

${}_{12} P_3 = \frac{12 \cdot 11 \cdot 10}{9!} = 1320$

In how many ways can seven people line up in a row?

7 6 5 4 3 2 1



Distinguishable Permutations

If a set of “n” objects has n_1 of one kind of object, n_2 of a second kind, and so on, then the number of distinguishable permutations of the n objects is:

$$\frac{n!}{n_1!n_2!\dots n_k!} \quad nPr = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!} \quad nCr = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!r!}$$

Example: In how many distinguishable ways can the word “banana” be written?



$$\frac{6!}{1!3!2!} = \frac{6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1}{2 \cdot 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 1} = 60$$

How about P*A*P*I*L*L*I*O*N?

$$\frac{9!}{2!1!2!2!1!1!} = \frac{9 \cdot 8 \cdot 7 \cdot 6 \cdot 5 \cdot 4 \cdot 3 \cdot 2 \cdot 1}{2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2} = 45,360$$

Combination Rule (Order Does Not Matter!)

You are forming a 12-member swim team (6 girls and 6 boys) from 10 girls and 15 boys. How many different teams are possible?

$${}_{10}C_6$$

girls

$$210$$

$$\frac{10!}{6!4!}$$

$${}_{15}C_6$$

boys

$$5005$$

$$\frac{15!}{9!6!}$$

$$210 \times 5005 = 1,051,050$$

The number of selections of “n” objects without regard for order using “r” objects at a time is:

$${}_n C_r = \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!}$$

Permutation vs. Combination

Decide whether order matters or not.

Look for key words

Permutation	Combination
Order	Selection
Arrange	Chosen
Awards	Without regard to order
Seating	
Rank	

Section 9-6 p.659; 19, 23, 27, 41, 45, 46,
59-67 odd, 75-81 odd