

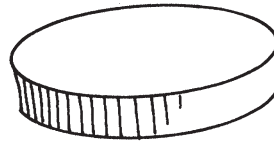
A FRACTION OF A CHANCE

Probability can be written as a fraction.

Suppose you toss a plastic marker. It has an X on one side and is blank on the other. What is the probability that the marker will land with the X side up? What is the probability of its landing blank side up?



One side is X.



One side is blank.

Remember

The marker has 2 sides. X is 1 of the sides. The probability of the marker landing with the X side up is 1 out of 2. It can be written as the fraction $\frac{1}{2}$.

The probability of the marker landing with the blank side up is also 1 out of 2. It can be written with the same fraction— $\frac{1}{2}$.



Answer the questions below.

1. What is the probability that a tossed coin will land heads up? _____
2. A red ball and a black ball are placed in a closed box. What is the probability of taking out a red ball? _____
3. José is to be chosen to play on either the A or B soccer team. What is the probability that he will be selected to play on the A team? _____



Extension: Suppose the telephone rings at your house. What are the chances that the call is for you? Explain. _____

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Answer Key

1. $\frac{1}{2}$
2. $\frac{1}{2}$
3. $\frac{1}{2}$

