

Why Be Random?

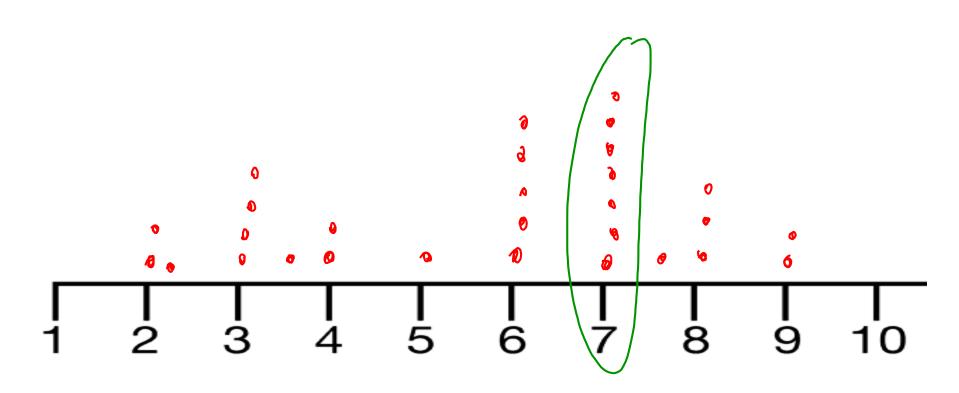
- What is it about chance outcomes being random that makes random selection seem fair? Two things:
 - Nobody can guess the outcome before it happens.
 - When we want things to be fair, usually some underlying set of outcomes will be equally likely (although in many games some combinations of outcomes are more likely than others).
- Statisticians don't think of randomness as the annoying tendency of things to be unpredictable or haphazard.
- Statisticians use randomness as a tool.
- But, truly random values are surprisingly hard to get...



It's Not Easy Being Random

- It's surprisingly difficult to generate random values even when they're equally likely.
- Computers have become a popular way to generate
 - Even though they often do much better than humans, computers can't generate truly random numbers either
 - Since computers follow programs, the "random" numbers we get from computers are really pseudorandom.
 - Fortunately, pseudorandom values are good enough for most purposes.

Why not just pick mumbers?



It's Not Easy Being Random

- There are ways to generate random numbers so that they are both equally likely and truly random.
- The best ways we know to generate data that give a fair and accurate picture of the world rely on randomness, and the ways in which we draw conclusions from those data depend on the randomness, too.

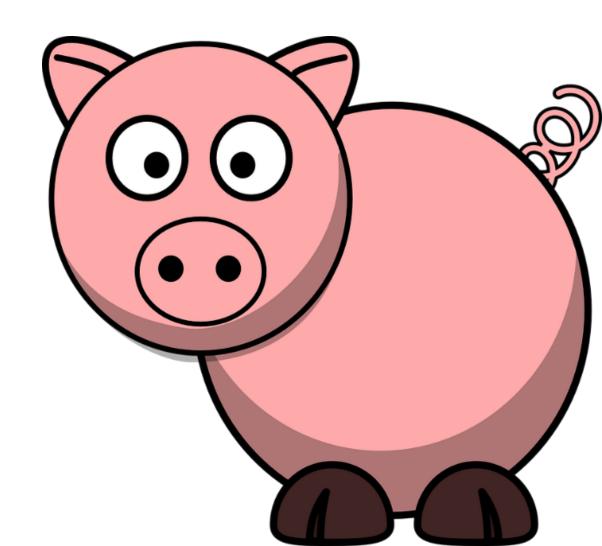
How to generate random numbers...

- Numbers in a hat
- Random Number Table
- Calculator
- Other ideas?



Practice with randomness

Pass the pigs



PLAYING THE GAME

One player must keep score. This player is known as the "swineherd."

Choose a player to go first. Play then continues to the left.

ON YOUR TURN

Roll *both* pigs together onto a smooth surface and *mentally* note the score. Points are scored according to how the pigs land. (See Scoring.)

After noting your points, you must now decide whether to stop rolling and score, or to keep rolling to try and add points to your score.

STOP ROLLING

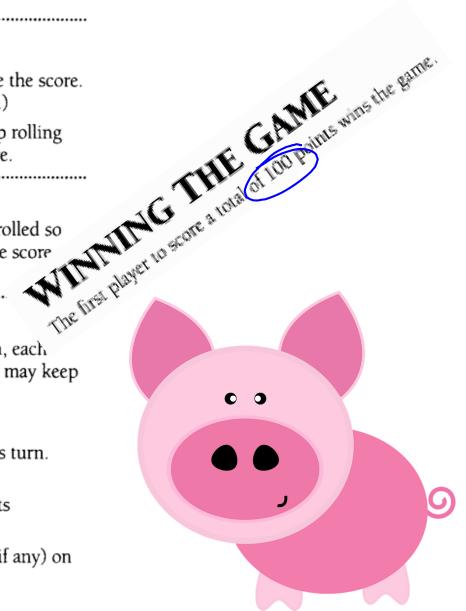
If you choose to stop rolling, add up the points that you have rolled so far on this turn and have the swineherd mark your score on the score pad. This ends your turn. Pass the pigs to the next player.

KEEP ROLLING

You may continue to roll the pigs again and again on your turn, each time mentally keeping a running total of the points rolled. You may keep rolling until one of the following occurs to end your turn:

- You decide to stop rolling and score.
- You roll a "Pig Out" which means you score 0 points for this turn. (See Scoring.)
- You roll an "Oinker" which means you lose all of your points accumulated in the game so far. (See Scoring.)

At the end of your turn, have the swineherd mark your score (if any) on the score pad. Pass the pigs to the next player.



Value Value Roll Roll 20 points 1 point Double Trotter Sider 5 points 40 points Razorback Double Snouter 60 points 5 points Trotter Double Leaning Jowler 5000 Combined 10 points score Snouter Mixed Combo Back to zero 15 points for turn Leaning Jowler Pig Out Back to zero 20 points for game Double Razorback Oinker

Assignment

P 265 (3-8)