



What is the probability of flipping heads on a coin flip?

Since 1 of the 2 possible outcomes of flipping a coin is heads, the probability of a flipped coin landing heads is $\frac{1}{2}$.

That just means that if you flip a coin a bunch of times and tally the results...

...it will land heads about half the time.

Good.

Things get a little trickier when we flip two coins.

Heads
 ||| ||| |||
 ||| ||| |||

Tails
 ||| ||| |||
 ||| ||| |||

MONSTERPOLY

If I flip *both* of these coins, what is the probability that both will land heads?

You can flip two heads...

...or two tails...

...or one of each.

We need to count all of the possible outcomes.

Tails
 ||| ||| |||
 ||| ||| |||

Are all three outcomes equally likely?

Try flipping both of these coins 60 times and record how many times you flip two heads, two tails, and one of each.

Tails
 ||| ||| |||
 ||| ||| |||

Try it.

Here are our results.

<u>Two Heads</u>	<u>Two Tails</u>	<u>One Each</u>

We flipped two heads 16 times...

...two tails 13 times...

...and one of each 31 times!

Weird. Why did "one each" come up so often?

I know! There are two ways to flip one heads and one tails!

We can flip heads on the penny and tails on the nickel...
...or heads on the nickel and tails on the penny.

Winnie's right. We can make a tree diagram to show all of the possible outcomes.

The penny can land heads or tails...
...and the nickel can land heads or tails.

That makes **four** possibilities: heads-heads, heads-tails, tails-heads, and tails-tails.

	<u>Penny</u>	<u>Nickel</u>	
	H	/ H \ T	1. HH 2. HT
	T	/ H \ T	3. TH 4. TT


All 4 possible outcomes are equally likely...

...and only 1 of the 4 outcomes has two heads.

So, the probability of flipping heads twice is $\frac{1}{4}$.

That matches our results. We flipped two heads on 16 of the 60 flips, which is about $\frac{1}{4}$ of the time.

	<u>Penny</u>	<u>Nickel</u>	
H	\	H	1. HH
		T	2. HT
T	\	H	3. TH
		T	4. TT



Excellent. Suppose I flip **three** coins.

What is the probability of flipping heads **exactly** twice with three coins?



We can add the third coin flip to our tree diagram.

That gives us **8** possible outcomes.

And **3** of the outcomes have exactly two heads.

So, on three flips of a coin, the probability you will get exactly two heads is $\frac{3}{8}$.

	<u>Penny</u>	<u>Nickel</u>	<u>dime</u>	
H	\	H	H	1. HHH
		T	H	2. HHT
T	\	H	T	3. HTH
		T	T	4. HTT
H	\	H	H	5. THH
		T	H	6. THT
T	\	H	T	7. TTH
		T	T	8. TTT

