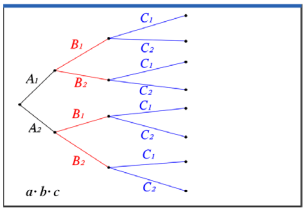
It's To Be Expected
Student Activity

Name _____

Class _____

In this activity, students will use a tree diagram to find theoretical probabilities and use this information in lists to find the expected value. Students will be asked to differentiate between independent and dependent events and how to navigate the handheld when finding these probabilities.



Problem 1 – Creating a Tree Diagram

Three basketball players are in a contest, hoping to win money for a charity. There is a 63% chance that Aisha will make a shot, a 74% chance that Bria will make a shot, and a 56% chance that Carmen will make a shot.

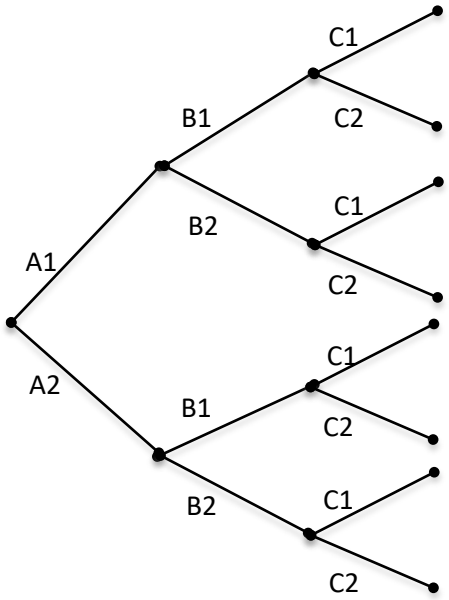
1. List the sample space for the three shots. Use an **A**, **B**, or **C** to represent each girl in the sample space.

2. Find the probability that **Aisha** will make her shot. Find the probability she will miss her shot.

3. Find the probability that **Bria** will make her shot. Find the probability she will miss her shot.

4. Find the probability that **Carmen** will make her shot. Find the probability she will miss her shot.

One way to organize the results of the scenario is to create a diagram where each girl's shots are represented. Next to the labels of each branch write the appropriate probabilities. (A = Aisha, B = Bria, C = Carmen, 1 = made, 2 = miss.)



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Since the events of each girl making her shot are independent, the **multiplication rule** for probability can be used. Use the diagram to help calculate the eight probabilities.

5. Find the probability that **none** of the girls make their shots.

6. Find the probability that **one** girl makes her shot. (*Hint:* Find which of the eight probabilities that must be added together to find the answer.)

7. Find the probability that **two** girls make their shots.

8. Find the probability that **all** the girls make their shots.

Problem 2 – Introducing Expected Value

If only one of the players makes her shot, they earn $5,000. If two make shots, they earn $12,500. If all three are successful, they earn $20,000. All of the money earned goes to charity. You will need to find the expected value of the contest for the charity.

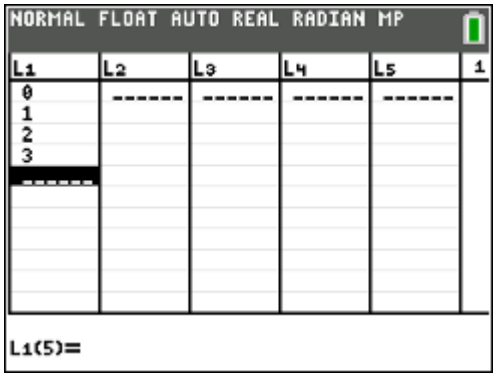
Press **stat**, **enter**.

L1: Enter the possible outcomes (number of shots).

L2: Enter the probabilities from Questions 5 – 8.

L3: Enter the payoffs.

L4: Calculate **probabilities*payoff** by arrowing to the top of L4, typing **L2 × L3**, and pressing **enter**.



Expected Value is defined as the sum of the products of probabilities of the outcomes and their payoffs. Add the values in list L4 using the **sum** command to find the expected value of the contest. From the Home screen, press **2nd**, **stat [list]** and arrow to the **MATH** menu. Select **sum(**, enter L4, and press **enter**.

9. Find the expected value of the contest.

10. State if the charity should expect this amount of money. Explain why or why not.

Problem 3 – Putting it All Together

In a lottery game, players may pick six numbers from two separate pools of numbers — five different numbers from 1 to 56 and one number from 1 to 46. You win the jackpot by matching all six winning numbers in a drawing.

MATCH		MATCH	PRIZE	CHANCES
5	+	1	Jackpot	1 in 175,711,536
5	+	0	$250,000	1 in 3,904,701
4	+	1	$10,000	1 in 689,065
4	+	0	$150	1 in 15,313
3	+	1	$150	1 in 13,781
3	+	0	$7	1 in 306
2	+	1	$10	1 in 844
1	+	1	$3	1 in 141
0	+	1	$2	1 in 75
Overall chances of winning a prize:				1 in 40

1. Verify the chances to win the jackpot from your knowledge of counting principles.

2. Calculate the expected value for the lottery assuming the jackpot is $42 million.

3. Tickets cost $1.00 per play. Find how much the lottery will make/lose for each ticket sold.

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4. Find the expected value that would be needed for the lottery to break even.

5. Find what the jackpot would need to be for the lottery to break even.

Further IB Application

After the Bills vs the Patriots game on Sunday, a sample of 50 attendees was randomly selected as they were leaving Highmark Stadium. They were asked how many times they visited the concessions stands for food or drink. The information is summarized in the following frequency table.

Number of times visited concession stands	Frequency
0	5
1	20
2	18
3	4
4	3

It can be assumed that this sample is representative of all attendees to the stadium for next week's game vs the Dolphins. For next week's game, estimate

(a) the probability that a randomly selected attendee will visit a concession stand.

(b) the expected number of times an attendee will visit a concession stand.

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