

What's the Chance?

Amazing Fact

On November 30th 1954, Ann Hodges of Alabama, USA was taking an afternoon nap on the sofa when a 4kg meteorite, still radiating heat, crashed through the roof of her house. It bounced off some furniture and struck her on the hip. The extreme unlikeliness of the event was compared to being struck by lightning, a tornado and a hurricane all at the same time!

Probability is the mathematical word we use to describe the chance that the event will occur.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

If you had a bag containing all 26 letters of the alphabet, calculate the probability of picking the following combinations. The first one has been done for you.

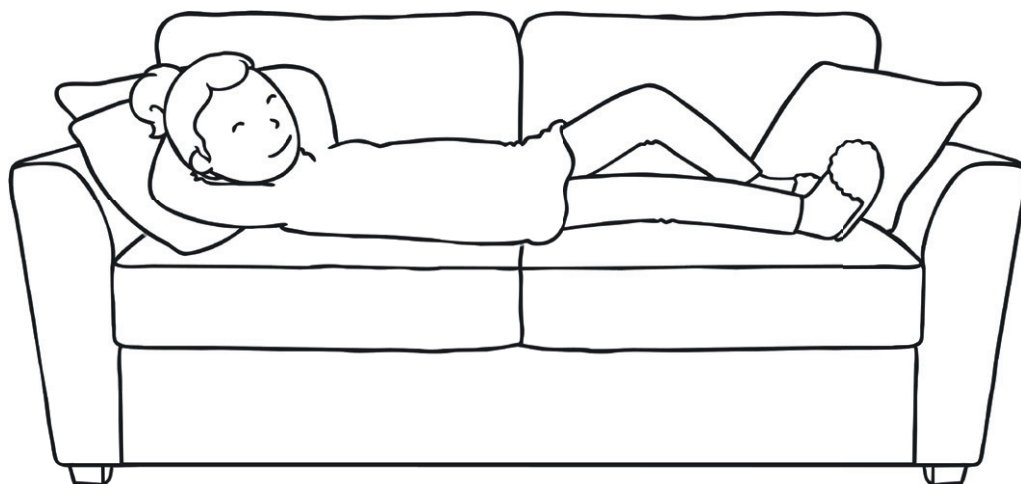
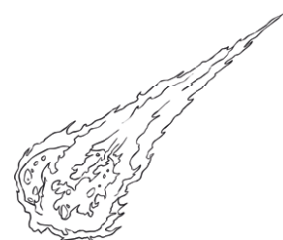
Reduce each fraction to its simplest form.

A	
A or B	
Z	
A vowel (A E I O U)	
A consonant	
A letter from the word 'alphabet'	
A letter from the word 'school'	
A letter that comes after U	
A letter between I and U	
The number 5	
Your full name	

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Challenge

Convince me that there is a 1 in 2 chance of picking the letters: **probability games** in that order.



You could also try to find out:

- how many recorded cases of people being struck by meteorites there are in history;
- why it is so rare for people to be hit by meteorites;
- where the 'Hodges' meteorite is now;
- what the difference is between 'space' rock and Earth rock.

What's the Chance? **Answers**

A	1/26
A or B	2/26
Z	1/26
A vowel (A E I O U)	5/26
A consonant	21/26
A letter from the word 'alphabet'	7/26
A letter from the word 'school'	5/26
A letter that comes after U	5/26
A letter between I and U	11/26
The number 5	Impossible
Your full name	(Answers will vary)