

FUNDAMENTAL COUNTING PRINCIPLE

If you can choose one item from a group of M items and a second item from a group of N items, then the total number of two items choices is $M \bullet N$.

Ex: a) A girl has four skirts and six blouses. How many different skirt-blouse combinations can she wear?

$$4 * 6 = 24$$

b) If the girl also has three sweaters, how many skirt-blouse-sweater combinations can she wear?

$$4 * 6 * 3 = 72$$

c) If eight basketball teams are in a tournament, in how many different ways could the first, second, and third place team be decided? (No ties allowed.)

$$8 * 7 * 6 = 336$$

1. In a race with 10 horses, the first, second, and third place finishers win three different prizes. How many ways could the prizes be awarded?

$$10 * 9 * 8 = 720$$

2. How many three-digit numbers can be formed from the digits 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 if repetitions of digits are:

a) not allowed

$$5 * 4 * 3 = 60$$

b) allowed

$$5 * 5 * 5 = 125$$

3. In a certain state, automobile license plates start with one letter of the alphabet, followed by five digits which can be selected from the numbers 0 through 9. Find how many license plates are possible if:

a) repetition of numbers is allowed

$$26 * 10 * 10 * 10 * 10 * 10 = 2,600,000$$

b) repetition of numbers is not allowed

$$26 * 10 * 9 * 8 * 7 * 6 = 782,240$$

c) the first digit following the letter can't be zero and repetition is allowed

$$26 * 9 * 10 * 10 * 10 * 10 = 2,340,000$$

d) the first digit following the letter can't be zero and repetition is not allowed

$$26 * 9 * 9 * 8 * 7 * 6 = 707,616$$

4. A row of six seats in a classroom needs to be filled by selecting individuals from a group of 10 students.

a) In how many different orders could the students sit down?

$$10 * 9 * 8 * 7 * 6 * 5 = 151,200$$

b) If there are six boys and 4 girls and the students need to alternate gender when they sit down, how many different seating arrangements are there?

$$6 * 4 * 5 * 3 * 4 * 2 = 2,880 \text{ or } 4 * 6 * 3 * 5 * 2 * 4 = 2,880 \dots \text{so } 5,760$$

5. If a short quiz has five true/false questions, how many different ways could the quiz be filled out?

$$2 * 2 * 2 * 2 * 2 = 32$$

6. If a lock on a safe requires making a 4 digit code and the numbers 0 through 9 can be used, how many different codes are possible if:

a) all digits must be different

$$10 * 9 * 8 * 7 = 5,040$$

b) digits can be repeated

$$10 * 10 * 10 * 10 = 10,000$$

c) the code must start with a 9 and end with a 4 and digits can be repeated

$$1 * 10 * 10 * 1 = 100$$

d) the 7 key is broken and digits must all be different

$$9 * 8 * 7 * 6 = 3024$$