

Math Forum - Problem of the Week

Flipping Coins

Greg and Shelden made up a coin flipping game using one penny and one nickel. The two coins are tossed at the same time. If both coins land the same way, either both heads or both tails, Greg wins. If not, Shelden wins.



1. If they play the game 60 times, about how times would you expect each player to win?
2. Is this a fair game?
[Mathematicians consider a game to be fair if all players have an equal chance of winning.]

Explain how you solved the problem.

Extra: The boys decide to try the game with three coins: a penny, and nickel and a dime. If all three land on the same side, Greg wins. If not, Shelden wins.

1. If they play this game 60 times, about how many times would you expect each player to win?
2. Use a fraction, a decimal and a percent to represent the probability of Greg winning this game.

Explain how you found your answers.

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