

MATH 6
HANDOUT 10: THE MATH BATTLE I

1. In a regular poker game, players are handed 5 cards each randomly from the deck. What is the probability that you get four of a kind? Four of a kind means that you get the same number from each kind. In poker, it does not matter the order in which you get the cards. Hint: First, determine in how many different ways you could make a four of a kind. Then, divide this by the total number of hands that could be dealt.
2. On a piece of paper, Laura has drawn a green square and Jessica — a red square. The squares are not aligned, and possibly even rotated. Is it always possible to cut the paper (by making a single cut along a straight line) so that each square is cut into two pieces of equal area?
3. On the island of Knights and Knaves, you meet three inhabitants: Bob, Mel and Peggy. Bob says that it's not true that Peggy is a knave. Mel says that Peggy is a knight or Bob is a knave. Peggy claims, "Both I am a knight and Bob is a knave." Can you determine who is a knight and who is a knave?
4. A king puts his 5 daughters in 5 rooms. To confuse a knight who is trying to find the youngest daughter, the king's advisor suggested that the daughters change rooms every day: in each room there should be an instruction saying "If you spend the night in this room, next night you should spend in room number...". [The instruction does not change from day to day.]
"But then", said the king, "after 5 nights at most, all of them will be back to original rooms!". "Not necessarily", says the advisor.
Can you devise a scheme so that the original room assignment is not repeated until day 7 (i.e., on days 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 the room assignments are different)?
5. In each square of 9×9 board there is a pawn. Can you move each pawn to one of the adjacent squares so that after the move, there is again one pawn in each square of the board?
6. I have three boxes. One is full of apples, another one is full of oranges, and the third one has a mixture of apples and oranges. The boxes are labelled "Apples", "Oranges", and "Mixed"; however, the three labels are all incorrect. You can choose any box to take one fruit out of it. Based on the result from that can you determine which box is which?
7. A traveler meets two brothers, Andrew and Bob. It is known that one of them always lies. "Are you Andrew?" he asks of the first brother. "Yes", answers the brother. Then the traveler asks the second brother the same question and gets an answer – but we do not know what the answer is. However, after hearing the answer the traveler immediately knew which brother was Andrew and which was Bob. Can you tell which brother is Andrew?
8. Can you divide a given triangle into 4 smaller triangles, so that any two of them are adjacent to each other? [Note: two triangles are called *adjacent* if they share an entire edge or a part of an edge.]