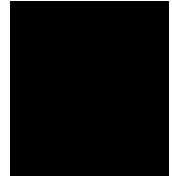


# Contents

---



<i>Preface to the Second Edition</i>	vii
<i>Acknowledgments to the Second Edition</i>	ix
<i>Preface to the First Edition</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgments to the First Edition</i>	xiii
1 A Brief History of Chance	1
2 What Are the Chances? Assigning Probabilities	13
3 Choice and Chance; Permutations and Combinations	19
4 Tossing Coins and Having Babies	25
5 Rolling Dice	39
6 Gambling for Fun: Lotteries and Football Pools	47
7 Serious Gambling: Roulette, Cards and Horse Racing	55
8 Balls, Birthdays and Coincidences	77
9 Conditional Probability and the Reverend Thomas Bayes	87
10 Puzzling Probabilities	105
11 Taking Risks	121
12 Statistics, Statisticians and Medicine	135
13 Alternative Therapies—Panaceas or Placebos?	155
14 What Does the Future Hold?	169

## **XVI** Contents

15 Chance, Chaos and Chromosomes 183

*Epilogue* 199

*Sources* 201

*Index* 203