

Chance – the language of likelihood

WHAT THIS LESSON TEACHES

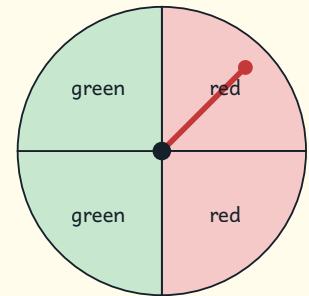
An event is certain when it is sure to happen, no matter what. Certain events fit the likelihood word at the very top of the scale.

- The sun will rise tomorrow morning is certain.
- A spinner with all parts coloured is certain to land on a colour.

MODEL THIS ON THE BOARD

CERTAIN AND IMPOSSIBLE

- 1 The spinner has 4 equal sections: 2 red and 2 green.
- 2 There is no blue section at all, so landing on blue is **impossible**.
- 3 Every section is a colour, so the arrow is **certain** to land on a colour.



ANSWER KEY

- a) all 8 sectors shaded
- b) 0 sectors shaded
- c) 4 red, 4 green

Q1: impossible

Q2: likely

a) **Always** — It is sure to happen no matter what, so it is certain.

b) **Always** — Every face of the die shows 1 to 6, so the outcome is sure.

c) **Never** — It could land on tails instead, so it is never certain.

d) **Always** — Every part is a colour, so a colour is sure.

EXTENSION SHEET · STRETCH ANSWERS

S1: unlikely

S2: unlikely

S3: unlikely

S4: even

S5: unlikely

Investigation: A week of likelihood — open-ended; scan pupils' working for valid solution paths rather than a single answer.