

342 (two children) I have two children. At least one of them is a girl. What is the probability that the other one is also a girl?

After trying the question, scroll down to the solution.

§ Let the genders of my two children be binary variables c and d , and let girl be 1 and boy be 0. We say that at least one of them is a girl this way: $c \vee d$. But a binary expression may not be a distribution, so we divide by the sum to make a distribution.

$$\begin{aligned} & (c \vee d) / (\sum c, d \cdot c \vee d) && \text{do the sum} \\ = & (a \vee b) / 3 \end{aligned}$$

Now we want to ask if both my children are girls; that's $c \wedge d$. So we put primes on the given information and compose it with the question.

$$\begin{aligned} & (c' \vee d') / 3 \cdot c \wedge d && \text{replace } \cdot \\ = & \sum c'', d'' \cdot (c' \vee d') / 3 \times (c'' \wedge d'') && \text{do the sum} \\ = & 1/3 \end{aligned}$$

The probability that my other child is also a girl is $1/3$.