

# *Beating the Odds*

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This lecture will examine the basics of probability theory as it pertains to the odds that a given event will occur.

We will examine the likelihood of various events occurring, or more importantly not occurring. The discussion will examine how probability changes with time, and by specific intervention. Examples from the fields of medicine, astronomy, paleo-marine-ecology and the television series "Good Times" will be discussed in detail.

We will also discuss some common games of chance and present some strategies for minimizing loss and maximizing enjoyment.

Finally we will discuss how the concepts we have discussed will serve to inform choices we might make on any given day, whether or not we happen to wake up in Las Vegas.

About the Speaker:

Despite the realities of a pediatrician's salary Professor Braner remains sanguine that through careful, selective probabilistic intervention he will be able to send his children to an accredited institution of higher learning; or failing that, The Bryman School.

Bibliography:

**What Are The Odds? : Chance In Everyday Life**

Mike Orkin

**Doyle Brunson's Super System**

Doyle Brunson

**Introduction to Probability and Statistics for Engineers and Scientists**

Sheldon M. Ross

**The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire : Volumes 1, 2,**

Edward Gibbon

**Ulysses**

James Joyce

**If You Give a Mouse a Cookie**

Laura Joffe Numeroff

**Evidence-Based Practice of Anesthesiology**

Lee A. Fleisher, MD