

Alice, Bob, and Charlie each toss a 6-sided die. What is the probability that exactly two of their dice values are equal?

Solution: The sample space consists of all $6^3 = 216$ possible triples of values for Alice's, Bob's, and Charlie's dice. The event E of interest consists of those outcomes in which two of them take the same value x but the third one takes a different value y . We calculate the size of E using the product rule: There are 3 choices for the person that tosses the y -valued die, 6 choices for y , and 5 remaining choices for x . Therefore $|E| = 3 \cdot 6 \cdot 5$. By the equally likely outcomes formula, $P(E) = 3 \cdot 6 \cdot 5 / 6^3 = 5/12 \approx 0.417$.