



Certain, Impossible, Likely

—Chapter title from a fifth-grade math book

Two trains approach Chicago at 50 miles an hour.

Susan has five apples, but James has only two. How much would you weigh on Jupiter? On Earth? Each pie is divided into six equal parts. The first train leaves San Francisco at 6 AM. Remember, an object can't have negative weight. The New York train will make three stops of an hour each. If Susan weighs three thousand pounds on Mercury, will they let her on the train? Did you remember to account for settling during transport? James, busy converting Celsius to Fahrenheit, has missed his train entirely. The taxi charges \$2.25 for every half mile or minute in traffic. The conductor is drunk and we're moving way too fast.

Estimate the likelihood that James and Susan will meet.

Hint: you can slice each pie only once.

