



# WHAT ARE THE ODDS?

The average chance of winning a scratch game prize is printed on the back of each CT Lottery scratch ticket. When customers ask how odds are determined, the following may help to explain:

A deck of playing cards has 52 cards, made from 4 suits - diamonds, clubs, hearts and spades. Each suit contains 13 cards.



The odds of drawing a card from a particular suit are 1 in 4. We know this by dividing the 52 cards by 13 (the number of cards in each suit). The answer is 4. Expressed as odds, that's 1 in 4.

## Example A:

52 cards in a deck  
13 cards in each suit  
 $52 \div 13 = 4$

This example can also be used to calculate the odds of winning a prize in a scratch game. Simply divide the number of tickets in the game by the number of prizes that can be won in the game.

## Example B:

1,000,000 tickets in a game  
250,000 tickets are prize winners  
 $1,000,000 \div 250,000 = 4$

Overall odds in Example B are 1 in 4 that you'll win a prize.

Like a deck of cards, the winning tickets in a scratch game are "shuffled" in a random way when the tickets are printed. Because of this, every 4th ticket will not be a "winner", but one-quarter of the total printed tickets in our example above will be prize winners.

Randomness means that there may be strings of winning tickets in a row in a pack, and it also means that there may be strings of tickets that are non-winning. The important thing to remember is that the odds don't change. And, because of the randomness, winning tickets happen all over the state – giving everyone who buys a ticket a fair chance at winning!