

Re: Tricky maths problem

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.math/2004-08/3844.html>

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On 20 Aug 2004, Stephen J. Herschkorn wrote:

>Tristan wrote:

>

>>Johnny has a coin, he tells Billy that he will give him £10 every time he spins heads, but take £5 off him every time he spins tails. What are the chances that Billy will have a positive amount after 5 spins? And after 10 spins? After X spins?

>>

>Let N be the number of heads out of x spins. (Do Brits really spin coins? Americans toss them). How large must N be for Billy to have a positive amount? What is the distribution of N ?

A minor nitpick:

The question, AS ASKED, can not be answered.

Why?

Because it did not state that "Johnny has a FAIR coin".

The question can not be answered without knowing the bias, if any.