



## QUIZ

You chat to a stranger on a bus who says he is the father of two children.

"Any daughters?" you ask.

"Yes," he replies, as he leaves.

What is the probability that both his children are girls?

### **Answer I:**

He has only told you that one child is a girl. The other child could be either sex. Since boys and girls are roughly equally frequent, the probability the other child is a girl is  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

### **Answer II:**

Since boys and girls are (roughly) equally frequent, and the sex of successive children of a father are (roughly) independent,  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all fathers with two children will have at least one girl, and  $\frac{1}{4}$  will have two girls. So amongst fathers that have two children of which at least one is a girl, the proportion that have two girls is  $\frac{1}{4}$  divided by  $\frac{3}{4}$ , which is  $\frac{1}{3}$ .

**WHICH ANSWER IS CORRECT?**