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September 1998

Regulars

## Letters



### Why stop?

The PASS Maths "magazine" is great! Why did publishing stop with the May '98 issue?

**Jon Revelos**

*It didn't, PASS Maths is still going strong. We publish once per term: January, May and September. A new editorial team will be publishing the January 1999 issue, see "Time to change" in the issue 7 [Editorial](#).*

### Probabilities

I would like to know how many chances there are of guessing a number with four digits.

My cousin says that there are one in ten thousand chances of guessing, but I think that there is much more. Can you give me the answer?

**F. Ferretti**

*Your cousin is right if you include all four-digit sequences from 0000–9999. If he/she chooses one of them at random then the chances of you guessing which one was chosen first time is 1 in 10000. That is because there are 10000 equally likely possibilities and only one of them is the right one!*

If you do not allow numbers with leading 0s, the normal meaning of "four digit numbers", then there are only 9000 equally likely possibilities: 1000–9999 and the chances are therefore 1 in 9000.

### PASS Maths new look

The outlook of the site has improved. More interesting puzzle problems could be put in.

**Michael Deuschmann**

**How to contact us:** [Any comments?](#)



*Plus* is part of the family of activities in the Millennium Mathematics Project, which also includes the NRICH and MOTIVATE sites.