

(Ebook pdf) Drunkard's Walk (Reprint Edition); How Randomness Rules Our Lives

# Drunkard's Walk (Reprint Edition); How Randomness Rules Our Lives

*Leonard (Author); Mlodinow*  
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**Leonard (Author); Mlodinow : Drunkard's Walk (Reprint Edition); How Randomness Rules Our Lives** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Drunkard's Walk (Reprint Edition); How Randomness Rules Our Lives:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Right Balance of History, Philosophy, Mathematics and Popular Culture By Jay Although its seemingly impossible to discuss this book without drawing parallels to Fooled By Randomness, these books provide a great compliment to each other. This book in particular differs in its scope, traversing many areas outside of finance. It also speaks more directly to the reader, explaining the mathematics of probability by breaking down the mathematics (in contrast to Taleb who speaks more through analogies and metaphors). The writer explains concepts clearly, and explores the role (and misunderstandings of) probability in Hollywood, the board room, the courts, and why the Greek's, despite their immense mathematical contributions had no understanding and a great skepticism of probability. This book contains just the right balance of history, philosophy, mathematics, popular culture (Monty Hall problem, etc), and its accessible to all. If you're on the fence about it, look at the Table of Contents for some inspiration. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It opened my eyes to the randomness in our lives. By Pere Do you think randomness only applies to games? Think twice, this book shows how randomness is everywhere and how we are tricked by it. It is a great read and it may open a new world for you if you read it with care. How we infer causes from outcomes and forget how randomness could have played part is key. Love the idea on the asymmetry between past and future and He explains it very clear. In summary this is a very good

book, with clear ideas. The only downside I found is that could feel a bit repetitive (some points are made several times). I definitely recommend this book as a starting read on randomness in our lives. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *The Power of Persistence* By Winston D. Jen We humans are notorious pattern-seeking creatures. In experiments where two lights are flashed with differing frequencies, human test subjects attempt to predict the pattern. Rats, however, will simply pick the light that appears more often. In so doing, they will outperform the most intelligent species on the planet. In a similar vein, even experts cannot predict the success of books or films submitted for publishing. JK Rowling suffered numerous setbacks before her Harry Potter series was finally adopted, earning very handsome sums for her, Bloomsbury and Warner Brothers pictures. So too for Bruce Willis and Bill Gates. Anne Frank's diary was initially treated with similar derision. While hindsight is often (claimed) to be 20/20, foresight is notoriously unreliable, as Mlodinow illustrates in the latter half, after describing statistical significance and the bell curve. Most people do not expect clusters; they think patterns will inevitably reveal themselves in any random distribution. This is, obviously, not the case. Random events, by definition, cannot be predicted (at least not with our current technology). The counter-intuitive and hard-to-grasp nature of probability doesn't stop there. Studies have shown that ordinary citizens not trained in probability are quite prone to simple errors. For example, if they are asked whether it is more likely that Jane, a woman in her 20s, is a feminist, or both a feminist and an elementary school teacher, most will answer that the latter is more likely. The latter, in fact, is a mathematical impossibility. It can only be equally likely, not more likely, than the former. Part of the difficulty lies in the sheer number of possibilities for any given situation, such as the risk of a single valve in a fission reactor leading to a meltdown. Since valves are open quite often, a single valve is likely to be considered par for the course. It is also why the phrase "military intelligence" is frequently treated with scorn. Although in hindsight the decision to leave Pearl Harbor be, due to its solid defensive emplacements, politics inevitably leads to finger-pointing and blame games. Trial by mathematics can lead to the innocent being convicted, especially since the wrong probabilities are often used (i.e. where the number of inter-racial couples in a city who own a certain car, vs. the number of total couples in that same city). Likewise, the Monte-Hall problem (using a gameshow where a contestant can win a goat or a car) had the world's top mathematicians making a simple blunder, unwilling to accept their error until seeing it demonstrated in a computer simulation (for more details, watch the film 21). Regression towards the mean is explained through genetics (shorter parents are more likely to have children who outgrow them, and vice versa). A recurring method for keeping things interesting is the continual use of brief biographies peppered throughout the book. Even the Greeks and Romans get a smattering of compliments and criticism (for instance, they had no concept of zero, and irrational numbers were thought to be too dangerous for the common populace). I especially enjoyed the tale of the mathematician who took Las Vegas casinos for a very costly ride, with some assistance from his students. This book is a great way to make complex mathematics fun, and you won't have to cramp your hands while you do it!

In this irreverent and illuminating book, acclaimed writer and scientist Leonard Mlodinow shows us how randomness, change, and probability reveal a tremendous amount about our daily lives, and how we misunderstand the significance of everything from a casual conversation to a major financial setback. As a result, successes and failures in life are often attributed to clear and obvious causes, when in actuality they are more profoundly influenced by chance. The rise and fall of your favorite movie star or the most reviled CEO--in fact, of all our destinies--reflects as much as planning and innate abilities. Even the legendary Roger Maris, who beat Babe Ruth's single-season home run record, was in all likelihood not great but just lucky. And it might be shocking to realize that you are twice as likely to be killed in a car accident on your way to buying a lottery ticket than you are to win the lottery. How could it have happened that a wine was given five out of five stars, the highest rating, in one journal and in another it was called the worst wine of the decade? Mlodinow vividly demonstrates how wine ratings, school grades, political polls, and many other things in daily life are less reliable than we believe. By showing us the true nature of change and revealing the psychological illusions that cause us to misjudge the world around us, Mlodinow gives fresh insight into what is really meaningful and how we can make decisions based on a deeper truth. From the classroom to the courtroom, from financial markets to supermarkets, from the doctor's office to the Oval Office, Mlodinow's insights will intrigue, awe, and inspire. Offering readers not only a tour of randomness, chance, and probability but also a new way of looking at the world, this original, unexpected journey reminds us that much in our lives is about as predictable as the steps of a stumbling man fresh from a night at the bar.