

The Value of Certainty

I can tell you with absolute certainty what the outcome of a roll of two six-sided dice will be — barring meta-events such as the cat batting one under the couch, or the scientist forgetting to record the results.

It will be a number in the range 2-12.

This is what 100% certainty offers, information on the full spread of possible outcomes without reference to their likelihood. It is a timeless and impartial image of the world as it can exist.

But certainty can be spent on predictive insight, a focus of our gaze. The cost is an allowance to be wrong. The more confidence spent the more specific the view of the future, but also greater the chance it's just a fairy tale.

Certainty	Prediction
100%	2 .. 12
94%	3 .. 11
83%	4 .. 10
67%	5 .. 9
44%	6 .. 8
17%	7

