How to Find the Median Value

It's the middle of a sorted list of numbers.

Median Value

The Median is the ***"middle"*** of a sorted list of numbers.

How to Find the Median Value

To find the Median, place the numbers in **value order** and find the **middle**.

Example: find the Median of **12, 3 and 5**

Put them in order:

3, 5, 12

The middle is **5**, so the median is **5**.

Example:

3, 13, 7, 5, 21, 23, 39, 23, 40, 23, 14, 12, 56, 23, 29

When we put those numbers in order we have:

3, 5, 7, 12, 13, 14, 21, 23, 23, 23, 23, 29, 39, 40, 56

There are **fifteen** numbers. Our middle is the **eighth** number:

3, 5, 7, 12, 13, 14, 21, **23**, 23, 23, 23, 29, 39, 40, 56

The median value of this set of numbers is **23**.

(It doesn't matter that some numbers are the same in the list.)

Two Numbers in the Middle

BUT, with an **even amount of numbers** things are slightly different.

In that case we find the **middle pair** of numbers, and then find the value that is **half way** between them. This is easily done by adding them together and dividing by two.

Example:

3, 13, 7, 5, 21, 23, 23, 40, 23, 14, 12, 56, 23, 29

When we put those numbers in order we have:

3, 5, 7, 12, 13, 14, 21, 23, 23, 23, 23, 29, 40, 56

There are now **fourteen** numbers and so we don't have just one middle number, we have a **pair of middle numbers**:

3, 5, 7, 12, 13, 14, **21**, **23**, 23, 23, 23, 29, 40, 56

In this example the middle numbers are **21 and 23**.

To find the value halfway between them, add them together and divide by 2:

21 + 23 = 44
then **44 ÷ 2 = 22**

So the **Median** in this example is **22**.

(Note that 22 was not in the list of numbers ... but that is OK because half the numbers in the list are less, and half the numbers are greater.)

Your Turn

51 65 49

Sort the list (drag them left or right), find the median, type in your answer.

Check Try Another! Help

Where is the Middle?

A quick way to find the middle: **count how many numbers, add 1 then divide by 2**

Example: There are 45 numbers

45 plus 1 is 46, then divide by 2 and we get **23**

So the median is the **23rd number** in the sorted list.

Example: There are 66 numbers

66 plus 1 is 67, then divide by 2 and we get **33.5**

33 and a half? That means that the **33rd and 34th** numbers in the sorted list are the two middle numbers.

So to find the median: add the **33rd and 34th** numbers together and divide by 2.

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