

Easy Level

Q1: Understanding Central Tendency (Easy)

A bakery tracks the daily sales of muffins (in dozens) over a week: [10, 12, 11, 15, 14, 13, 12].

What is the most representative value of their weekly sales, and why

Answer: For **central tendency**, the *most representative value* is usually the **mean (average)** when the data has no extreme outliers.

Given data (in dozens):

[10, 12, 11, 15, 14, 13, 12]

Step 1: Calculate the mean

[

Mean= $\{10 + 12 + 11 + 15 + 14 + 13 + 12\} / \{7\} = \{87\} / \{7\} = 12.43$

]

Answer:

The most representative value of their weekly muffin sales is **approximately 12.4 dozens per day**.

Why?

- The data is fairly balanced with no extreme values.
- Sales cluster around 12–13 dozens.
- Hence, the **mean** gives a good overall picture of typical daily sales.

So, the bakery sells **about 12 dozen muffins per day on average**.

Q2: Mean in Real Life (Easy)

A teacher records the marks of her students in a short quiz: [12, 15, 14, 16, 18, 20, 19].

What is the mean score, and what does it tell us about the class's performance?

Given marks:

[12, 15, 14, 16, 18, 20, 19]

Step 1: Calculate the mean

[

$$\text{Mean} = \{12 + 15 + 14 + 16 + 18 + 20 + 19\} / \{7\} = \{114\} / \{7\} = 16.29$$

]

Answer:

The **mean score is approximately 16.3 marks.**

What it tells us about the class performance:

- On average, students scored around **16 marks** in the quiz.
- This indicates a **good overall performance**, as most students scored in the mid-to-high range.
- The class, as a whole, performed **fairly well**, with no extremely low scores pulling the average down.

Q3: Mode in Real Life (Easy)

A store records the shoe sizes sold in one day: [7, 8, 9, 8, 8, 10, 7, 9].

What is the mode, and why is this information useful for the store manager

Given shoe sizes:

[7, 8, 9, 8, 8, 10, 7, 9]

Step 1: Count frequencies

- Size 7 → 2 times
- Size 8 → 3 times
- Size 9 → 2 times
- Size 10 → 1 time

Answer:

The **mode is shoe size 8**, because it occurs most frequently.

Why this is useful for the store manager:

- It shows the **most popular shoe size** among customers.
- The manager can **stock more size 8 shoes** to meet demand.
- It helps in **inventory planning**, reducing shortages and unsold stock.

Medium Level

Q4: Median in Real Life (Medium)

A car dealer notes the prices of used cars: [\$8,000, \$9,500, \$10,200, \$11,000, \$50,000].

Why is the median a better measure than the mean in this case? Calculate the median.

Given car prices:

[\$8,000, \$9,500, \$10,200, \$11,000, \$50,000]

Step 1: Arrange the data

The prices are already in ascending order.

Step 2: Calculate the median

There are **5 values** (odd number), so the median is the **middle value**:

Median = \$10,200

Why the median is a better measure than the mean:

- One car costs **\$50,000**, which is **much higher** than the rest.
- This extreme value (outlier) would **pull the mean upward**, making the average price seem higher than what most cars actually cost.
- The **median is not affected by outliers**, so it better represents the *typical* used car price.

Conclusion:

The **median price is \$10,200**, and it gives a more realistic picture of the usual car price than the mean in this case.

Q5: Dispersion Introduction (Medium)

A student times how long it takes to finish a puzzle each day: [25, 30, 27, 35, 40].

What does the range tell us about the variation in the student's puzzle-solving time?

Given times (in minutes):

[25, 30, 27, 35, 40]

Step 1: Find the range

- Minimum time = **25 minutes**
- Maximum time = **40 minutes**

[

Range = $40 - 25 = 15$

]

Answer:

The **range is 15 minutes**.

What this tells us about variation:

- The student's puzzle-solving time **varies by up to 15 minutes** from fastest to slowest day.
- This shows there is a **moderate level of variation** in performance.
- Some days the student finishes quickly, while on other days it takes much longer.

Conclusion:

The range gives a **simple idea of spread**, showing how consistent (or inconsistent) the student's puzzle-solving time is over different days.

Q6: Range in Action (Medium)

A farmer records the weekly weight of harvested apples (kg): [100, 105, 98, 110, 120].

Find the range. How can this help the farmer in planning his packaging?

Given weekly weights (kg):

[100, 105, 98, 110, 120]

Step 1: Find the range

- Minimum weight = **98 kg**
- Maximum weight = **120 kg**

[

Range = $120 - 98 = 22$]

Answer:

The **range is 22 kg**.

How this helps the farmer in planning packaging:

- It shows that weekly harvest quantities can **vary by up to 22 kg**.
- The farmer can **prepare flexible packaging options** (different box sizes or extra crates).
- Helps avoid **shortages or excess packaging**, improving efficiency and reducing waste.

Conclusion:

The range helps the farmer understand the **variability in harvest**, making packaging and logistics planning more accurate.

Q7: Variance for Decision-Making (Medium)

Two delivery companies track delivery delays (in minutes).

Company A: variance = 6

Company B: variance = 15

Which company is more consistent, and why?

Answer:

Company A is more consistent.

Why:

- **Variance measures how spread out the data is** from the mean.
- A **lower variance** means the delivery times are **closer to the average**, showing more consistency.
- Company A has a variance of **6**, which is much lower than Company B's **15**.

Conclusion:

Company A's delivery delays are **more predictable and stable**, while Company B shows **greater fluctuation** in delivery times.

Hard Level

Q8: Standard Deviation in Context (Hard)

A finance student compares the daily price fluctuations of two cryptocurrencies.

Coin A: standard deviation = \$30

Coin B: standard deviation = \$120

Which coin is riskier to invest in, and why

Answer:

Coin B is riskier to invest in.

Why:

- **Standard deviation measures volatility**, i.e., how much prices fluctuate around the average price.

- A **higher standard deviation** means **larger and more frequent price swings**.
- Coin B's standard deviation is **\$120**, which is much higher than Coin A's **\$30**.

Conclusion:

Coin B has **greater price volatility**, making it **riskier but potentially higher-return**, while Coin A is **more stable and lower risk**.

Q9: Combining Measures (Hard)

A family records their monthly electricity usage (in kWh): [400, 420, 390, 450, 410].

Find the mean and standard deviation. What do these values together tell you about the family's energy use pattern

Given monthly usage (kWh):

[400, 420, 390, 450, 410]

1. Mean (average usage)

[

$$\text{Mean} = \{400 + 420 + 390 + 450 + 410\} / \{5\} = \{2070\} / \{5\} = 414$$

]

2 Standard Deviation

(Considering this as the full dataset → population standard deviation)

- Deviations from mean (414):
[-14, 6, -24, 36, -4]
- Squared deviations:
[196, 36, 576, 1296, 16]
- Sum of squares = **2120**

[

$$\text{Variance} = \{2120\} / \{5\} = 424$$

]

[
\\text{Standard Deviation} \\approx \\sqrt{424} \\approx 20.6 \\text{ kWh}
]

Final Answer

- **Mean electricity usage: 414 kWh**
- **Standard deviation: ≈ 20.6 kWh**

What this tells us about the family's energy use:

- The family typically uses **around 414 kWh per month**.
- The **relatively small standard deviation** shows that their usage is **fairly consistent** from month to month.
- There are some fluctuations (like 450 kWh), but overall the energy consumption pattern is **stable and predictable**.

In short: **steady average usage with moderate variation**.

Q10: Practical Application (Hard)

A basketball player's points in 8 games are recorded: [15, 18, 20, 22, 25, 17, 19, 21].

Find the mean, median, mode, range, and standard deviation. What insights can these measures provide

about the player's scoring performance?

Given points (8 games):

[15, 18, 20, 22, 25, 17, 19, 21]

Calculations

Mean (average):

$$\left[\frac{157}{8} = 19.63 \right]$$

Median:

Sorted data \rightarrow [15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25]

$$\left[\text{Median} = \frac{19 + 20}{2} = 19.5 \right]$$

Mode:

- **No mode** (all values occur once)

Range:

$$\left[25 - 15 = 10 \right]$$

Standard Deviation (population):

$$\left[\text{SD} \approx 2.9 \text{ points} \right]$$

**Summary of Measures**

- **Mean:** 19.6
 - **Median:** 19.5
 - **Mode:** None
 - **Range:** 10
 - **Standard Deviation:** ≈ 2.9
-

Insights about the player's performance

- The player **averages about 20 points per game**, showing solid scoring ability.
- Mean and median are very close → performance is **well-balanced**, not skewed by extreme games.
- No mode suggests **varied scoring**, not the same score repeated.
- A **small standard deviation (≈ 3 points)** indicates **consistent performance** across games.
- The range shows the difference between best and worst games is reasonable, not extreme.
- **Overall:** The player is a **reliable and consistent scorer** with steady performance game to game.