

Descriptive Statistics

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: The most representative value is the mean (average) daily sales.

Calculation:

$$(10+12+11+15+14+13+12)/7$$

$$=78/7$$

$$=12.4 \text{ dozens}$$

Why:

- The data has **no extreme outliers**, so the mean gives a good overall summary of typical sales.
- It uses **all the data points**, reflecting the general level of sales across the week.

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?

ANSWER: Mean score calculation:

$$= (12 + 15 + 14 + 16 + 18 + 20 + 19)/7$$

$$= 114/7$$

$$= 16.3$$

The mean score is about 16.3 marks.

What it tells us:

- On average, students scored a little over 16 marks on the quiz.
- This suggests the class performed fairly well overall, with most students scoring in the mid-to-high range rather than very low scores.

Descriptive Statistics

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?

ANSWER:

Mode calculation:

Count each shoe size:

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

Ans:

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

Why this is useful:

- It tells the store manager which shoe size is **most popular**.
- The manager can **stock more size 8 shoes** to meet customer demand and avoid running out of the most requested size.

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.

Answer: First, list the prices in order (they already are):

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

Median calculation:

There are 5 prices, so the median is the middle value:

Median = \$10,200

Why the median is better than the mean:

- The \$50,000 car is an extreme value (outlier) compared to the other prices.
- The mean would be pulled upward by this very expensive car and would not reflect the typical used car price.
- The median is not affected by outliers, so it gives a more accurate picture of what a "typical" used car costs.

Ans:

The median price is \$10,200, and it is a better measure because it represents the typical car price without being distorted by the unusually expensive car.

Descriptive Statistics

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?

ANSWER: Range calculation:

- Fastest time = 25 minutes
- Slowest time = 40 minutes

$$\text{Range} = 40 - 25 = 15 \text{ minutes}$$

What the range tells us:

- The student's puzzle-solving times vary by **15 minutes** from the fastest to the slowest day.
- This indicates a **moderate amount of variation** in performance—some days the student finishes much faster than others.

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?

ANSWER: Range calculation:

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

$$\text{Range} = 120 - 98 = 22 \text{ kg}$$

Ans: The range is 22 kg.

How this helps the farmer:

- It shows how much the harvest weight can **vary from week to week**.
- Knowing this variation helps the farmer **plan packaging and storage**, ensuring there are enough boxes and space even in weeks with higher yields.

Descriptive Statistics

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 average.
- A lower variance means delivery delays are more tightly clustered around the mean.
- Company A's variance (6) is much lower than Company B's variance (15), so Company A has more predictable and consistent delivery times.

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.

WHY:

- Its price changes more each day (higher standard deviation).
- Bigger fluctuations mean more uncertainty for investors.
- Standard deviation measures how much the prices vary from the average.
- Coin A: SD = \$30 → smaller daily fluctuations → more stable.
- Coin B: SD = \$120 → larger daily fluctuations → less stable.

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?

Answer: Calculate the mean

$$\text{Mean} = (400 + 420 + 390 + 450 + 410) / 5$$

$$= 2070 / 5$$

$$= 414 \text{ kWh}$$

Descriptive Statistics

Calculate the standard deviation

1. Find deviations from the mean and square them:

- $(400 - 414)^2 = (-14)^2 = 196$
- $(420 - 414)^2 = 6^2 = 36$
- $(390 - 414)^2 = (-24)^2 = 576$
- $(450 - 414)^2 = 36^2 = 1296$
- $(410 - 414)^2 = (-4)^2 = 16$

Find the average of squared deviations:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Variance} &= (196 + 36 + 576 + 1296 + 16) / 5 \\ &= 2120 / 5 \\ &= 424\end{aligned}$$

Standard deviation = $\sqrt{\text{Variance}}$

$$\begin{aligned}\text{SD} &= \sqrt{424} \\ &= 20.6 \text{ kWh}\end{aligned}$$

Interpretation

- **Mean = 414 kWh** → On average, the family uses 414 kWh per month.
- **SD = 20.6 kWh** → Their monthly usage **varies moderately** around the average.
- **Conclusion:** The family's energy use is **fairly consistent**, with only small fluctuations month to month.

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?

ANSWER: Mean

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Mean} &= (15 + 18 + 20 + 22 + 25 + 17 + 19 + 21) / 8 = 157 / 8 = 19.625 \\ &= 19.6 \text{ points}\end{aligned}$$

Mean

Median

- Arrange in order: [15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25]
- 8 numbers → median = average of 4th and 5th values: $(19 + 20) / 2 = 19.5$
Median = 19.5 points

Descriptive Statistics

Mode

- All values occur **once**, so there is **no mode**.

Range

- $\text{Range} = 25 - 15 = 10$ points

Standard Deviation

1. Find deviations from the mean ($=19.625$) and square them:

- $(15 - 19.625)^2 = 21.39$
- $(17 - 19.625)^2 = 6.89$
- $(18 - 19.625)^2 = 2.64$
- $(19 - 19.625)^2 = 0.39$
- $(20 - 19.625)^2 = 0.14$
- $(21 - 19.625)^2 = 1.89$
- $(22 - 19.625)^2 = 5.64$
- $(25 - 19.625)^2 = 28.89$

2. $\text{Sum} = 21.39 + 6.89 + 2.64 + 0.39 + 0.14 + 1.89 + 5.64 + 28.89 = 67.87$

3. Divide by number of data points (population SD formula) or $(n-1)$ for sample):

Using **sample SD** ($n-1 = 7$): $67.87 / 7 = 9.70$

4. Take square root: $\sqrt{9.70} = \mathbf{3.11 \text{ points}}$

SD = 3.1 points

Insights

- Mean $\approx 19.6 \rightarrow$ Player averages about 20 points per game.
- Median = 19.5 \rightarrow Typical game score is close to the average.
- Mode: none \rightarrow No score repeats frequently; scoring is varied.
- Range = 10 \rightarrow Highest score is 10 points above the lowest; moderate variation.
- SD $\approx 3.1 \rightarrow$ Most games are within ~ 3 points of the average \rightarrow fairly consistent scorer.