

Strictly – Student Guide

Background

Strictly is a Saturday evening light entertainment BBC show. It is a dancing competition. The latest series was in autumn 2023. Originally about 15 couples compete for the glitterball trophy. A couple is made of a celebrity and a professional dancer. There are also four judges; in this series these were Craig, Motsi, Shirley and Anton.

Each week, couples perform a dance, and the four judges give a score out of ten. The audience can also vote although details of the audience results are not released. When all couples have danced, the audience and judge scores are combined and the two couples with the least combined votes go into the dance off. The judges then vote to save one of the couples and the other couple is eliminated. There are a few exceptions; no couples are eliminated in the first week and in this series two couples withdrew from the competition and so there were no eliminations into two of the weeks.

Data Description

The data is provided by Wikipedia. The original results data for the latest series are [here](#). Wikipedia provides separate tables for each week but for this exercise, the results data for all weeks has been appended into one single dataset. The results data has the following columns:

- Week e.g. Week 01, Week 02
- Couple e.g. in the format *Celebrity* and *Professional Dancer* e.g. Nigel and Katya
- Music (artist and song)
- Dance, e.g. Waltz, Foxtrot
- Scores – these are provided in a single column in the format : *Total Score (Craig, Motsi, Shirley, Anton)* e.g. 30 (6,7,8,9)
- Result e.g. Safe, Bottom Two, Eliminated, NA (not applicable, for weeks where no couple was eliminated)

There are two other tables that may be useful.

- Judge: contains a row for each judge; full name, link to a Wikipedia page, link to image
- Couple: contains a row for each couple; celebrity full name and notability, professional dancer's full name

Suggested Initial Approach

You will need to clean and reshape the data in several ways before you can build any good visualisation.

Build a bar chart to show the judges' scores for each couple?

Some questions you may want to consider.

- Which judge is the most generous?

- Which judge is the most influential?
- Do the couples at the bottom of the leader board (which is the judges scores only) often / always go into the dance off?

Particular Challenges

Wikipedia has organised the results data for presentational purpose but is this the best shape for analysis and visualisation?

Is it better to calculate the total score or average score?

If you use the Couple table, look out for data quality issues!

Dataset Location

The tables are in an Excel file in a public location on the web

<https://zomalextrainingstorage.blob.core.windows.net/datasets/misc/Strictly%20Data.xlsx>

Import data from the Excel tables: Results, Couple, Judge, Week