**Summary:**

What does the word “data” mean to you?

Although it’s clear that data is a major part of a data analyst’s job,

* It's only part of the big picture.
* The other part is problem solving.

Being a successful data analyst means understanding that each problem is unique and working methodically to solve that problem with data.

A data analytics team works to recognize the current problem. Then, they organize available information to reveal gaps and opportunities : **Using structured thinking**

In which step of the data analysis process would an analyst ask questions such as, “What data errors might get in the way of my analysis?” or “How can I clean my data so the information I have is consistent?” : **Process**

A data analyst has entered the analyze step of the data analysis process. Identify the questions they might ask during this phase. Select all that apply : **How will my data help me solve this problem? And What story is my data telling me?**

A data analyst is trying to understand what data to use to help solve a business problem. They’re asking questions such as, “What internal data is available in the database?” and “What outside facts do I need to research?” The data analyst is in which phase of the data analysis process? : **Prepare**

**Learning Log: Consider what data means to you**

| **Date:** <enter date> | **Course/topic:** Course 2: Ask Questions to Make Data-Driven Decisions | | |
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| **Learning Log:** Consider what data means to you | | |
| **Data and problem-solving** | Pause for a moment and think about the word “data.” What does it mean to you?  Although it’s clear that data is a major part of a data analyst’s job, it’s only part of the “big picture.” The other part is problem solving. Being a successful data analyst means understanding that each problem is unique and working methodically to solve that problem with data.  By definition, most new problems data analysts face start in “unknown territory." It’s up to the data analyst and their problem solving skills to think strategically, ask good questions, and use data to come up with solutions to these problems. | | |
| **Reflection:** | Write 3-5 sentences (60-100 words) reflecting on what data means to you. Then write 2-3 sentences (40-60 words) reflecting on the problem-solving process by answering each of the questions below: | | |
| **Questions and responses:** | * What does data mean to you?   *Technically speaking, for me the word “data” means a number or a fact associated with context which speaks for itself thereby giving it a greater sense. I’d describe it as this only. Data can represent everything which can be put down on a paper, it itself is data. Data can be used for a variety of tasks such as predicting future outcomes based on historical data, training AI models, helping invest in stable stocks, etc.*   * When you come across a problem and you aren’t sure of the answer or solution, what do you do?   *When I instantly can’t get to the solution or not sure which of the answers could prove to be right,I look around the problem, for example when we’re not sure about an MCQ being correct or not then we try to eliminate the wrong options first. Similarly I try to gauge what environment, intention would have caused a certain problem/question and through rigorous questioning I reach out to the answer.*   * How do you identify new and interesting problems to begin with? Is there a process you use to identify problems you want to solve?   *Yes as I mentioned above, new problems would be the one of the problems instantly I don't know the answer to. For those problems I try to gauge what environment, intention would have caused a certain problem/question, what are we trying to acquire from the problem and through rigorous questioning I reach out to the answer.* | | |