

average² S2

noun

- 1** [countable] COUNT/CALCULATE the amount calculated by adding together several quantities, and then dividing this amount by the total number of quantities:

average of

The average of 3, 8, and 10 is 7.

Each person raised an average of £60 to plant an acre of trees.

The December figures brought the annual average for 2001 up to 10.6 per cent.

- 2 on average** USUALLY

based on a calculation about how many times something usually happens, how much money someone usually gets, how often people usually do something etc:

On average, men still earn more than women.

Nearly 80% of Swiss citizens on average turn out to vote.

- 3** [uncountable and countable] GOOD/EXCELLENT the usual level or amount for most people or things:

Streets in the town centre are wider than the average.

above/below average

The school's eighth-graders are above average in science.

*The murder rate in the city has risen to four times **the national average**.*

→ **law of averages** AT LAW (9)

Word origin

Date: 1700–1800

Origin: *average* '(fair sharing out of costs resulting from) damage to or loss of a ship or the goods it carries' (15–20 centuries), from French *avarie*, from Arabic *'awariyah*

