--- FRONT MATTER INSTRUCTIONS ---

layout: This should always be 'layouts/base.html'.

title: The headline of your blog post.

date: Use YYYY-MM-DD format. The most recent date appears first.

excerpt: A short, engaging summary for the blog listing page.

tags: This MUST be "posts". You can add other tags, but "posts" is required.

featuredImage: Path to the image. e.g., /img/posts/your-image-name.jpg

featuredImageAlt: A brief, descriptive text for the image.

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layout: layouts/base.html title: "Baseline Post: 5 Common Mistakes in Data Analysis" date: 2025-09-01 excerpt: "Learn how to avoid these common pitfalls to ensure your data analysis is accurate, insightful, and

impactful." tags: ["posts"] featuredImage: /img/posts/post-placeholder.jpg featuredImageAlt: "An icon of a magnifying glass over a bar chart."

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PARAGRAPHS
How to write: Just type your text. Leave an empty line
to start a new paragraph. The first paragraph is key
to grabbing your reader's attention.

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Data analysis is a powerful tool, but it's easy to fall into common traps that can lead to flawed conclusions. As a data analyst, recognizing these pitfalls is the first step toward producing reliable and trustworthy insights. This post will walk you through five common mistakes and how you can avoid them.

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SUBHEADINGS (H2)
How to write: Use '##' followed by a space.
These are essential for making your post scannable and
easy for readers to navigate.

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1. Ignoring Data Cleaning

It's tempting to jump straight into analysis, but skipping the cleaning phase is a critical error. Raw data is often messy, containing duplicates, missing values, or incorrect entries.

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UNORDERED LIST (BULLET POINTS)
How to write: Use a '*' or '-' at the start of the line,
followed by a space.

- **Always** check for missing data and decide on a strategy (e.g., remove, impute).
- Validate data types; for example, make sure dates are dates and numbers are numbers.
- Remove duplicate records to avoid skewed results.

A great resource for data cleaning techniques is the **pandas** documentation, which you can find at the [official pandas website](https://www.example.com). Neglecting this step can *invalidate your entire analysis*.

2. Choosing the Wrong Visualization

A picture is worth a thousand numbers, but the wrong picture can be misleading. Using a pie chart to show a trend over time, for example, is a poor choice.

> The goal of a visualization is *clarity*, not complexity.

Always match your chart type to your data's story. Use line charts for trends, bar charts for comparisons, and scatter plots for relationships.

This template provides a solid foundation for any post. Just replace the text with your own content, following the formatting examples provided. Happy writing!