

Frequency tables and dot plots

Think of a **frequency table** as a table that displays how frequently or infrequently something occurs. A **dot plot** display can also be used to show the frequency of small data sets.

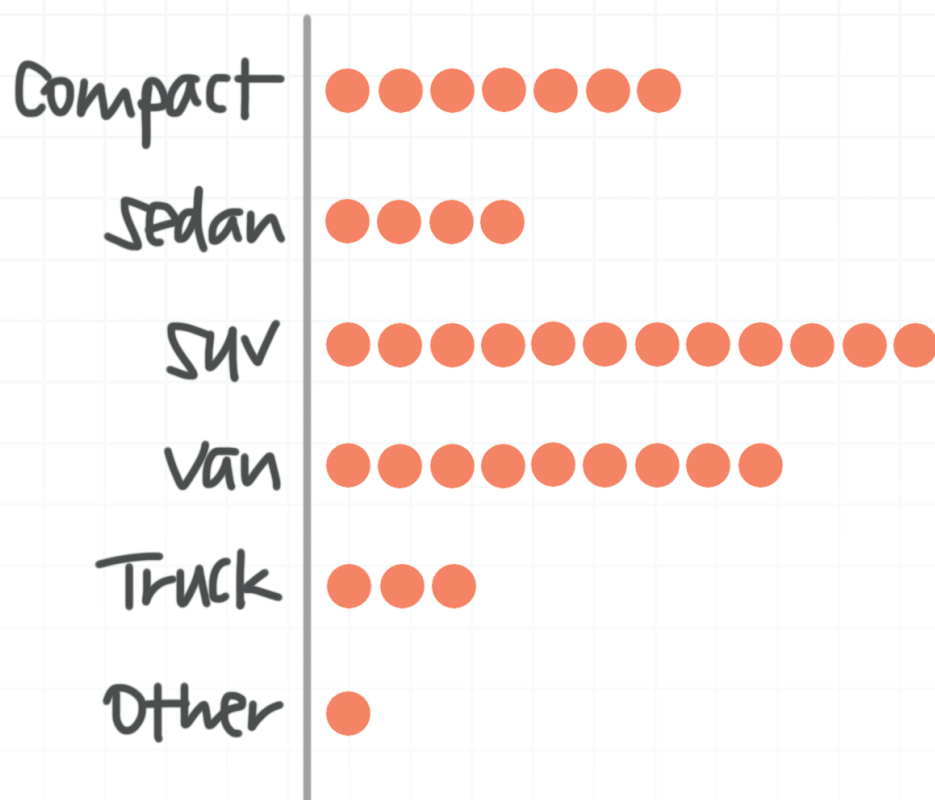
If we want to categorize the vehicles in a parking lot by type, we could do that in a frequency table.

Type	Count
Compact	7
Sedan	4
SUV	12
Van	9
Truck	3
Other	1

To make this table, we counted the number of cars of each type, and recorded them in the table. Since we counted 7 compact cars, we wrote a 7 next to “Compact” in the table, and since we counted 9 vans, we wrote a 9 next to “Van.”

We could have also recorded this data in a dot plot.





To make the dot plot, we just took the data in the frequency table and changed the counts into dots. Since we counted 7 compact cars and put that in the frequency table, we put 7 dots above “Compact” in the dot plot.

Dot plots are a lot like bar graphs, in the sense that we can very easily see which items occur most frequently, based just on the height of the dots in the dot plot, like the height of the bar in a bar graph.

We can also convert between a list of data, a frequency table, and a dot plot. For example, 10 students took a quiz where they could earn scores between 0 and 10. Their scores were

9, 10, 8, 9, 10, 10, 7, 9, 5, 8

A frequency table can be created to show the frequency of any given score between 0 and 10.

Quiz score	Count
10	3
9	3
8	2
7	1
6	0
5	1
4	0
3	0
2	0
1	0
0	0

Then the data from the frequency table can be turned into a dot plot.

