Mean and Median

Mean and median: Models and calculations

Name _____ **Date** _____ **Score** _____ / 6

QUICK REVIEW

Mean = sum/count; median = middle value after sorting. For $2, 3, 8, 11$, mean $= 24/4 = 6$ and median $= (3 + 8)/2 = 5.5$. A mean need not occur in the list. For five values with mean 7, the required total is $5 \times 7 = 35$.

Worked example

Find mean and median. Data: $2, 3, 8, 11$.

1. Sum $= 2 + 3 + 8 + 11 = 24$; mean $= 24/4 = 6$.
2. The two middle values are 3 and 8; median $= (3 + 8)/2 = \frac{11}{2}$.
Answer: Mean 6; median $\frac{11}{2}$.

Practice Problems

Show your thinking.

1. Find both measures of center. Data: $3, 7, 4, 6, 5$.

2. Find both centers for an even-sized set. Data: $1, 4, 8, 11$.

3. Include repeated values in the average. Data: $2, 2, 5, 7$.

4. Find typical daily reading counts using both centers. Data: $12, 15, 18, 15$.

5. Recover the fourth value. Known values: $4, 6, 8$; there are 4 values with mean 7.

6. A student calls 6 the median. Find and correct both centers. Data: $1, 2, 3, 18$.

Answer Key

1. Mean 5; median 5.
2. Mean 6; median 6.
3. Mean 4; median $\frac{7}{2}$.
4. Mean 15; median 15.
5. Missing value 10.
6. Mean 6; median $\frac{5}{2}$.

Step-by-Step Solutions

Follow each calculation, then check your own work.

Problem 1

1. Sum $= 3+7+4+6+5 = 25$; mean $= 25/5 = 5$.
2. In $3, 4, 5, 6, 7$, position 3 is 5, the median.

Problem 2

1. Sum $= 1+4+8+11 = 24$; mean $= 24/4 = 6$.
2. The two middle values are 4 and 8; median $= (4+8)/2 = 6$.

Problem 3

1. Sum $= 2+2+5+7 = 16$; mean $= 16/4 = 4$.
2. The two middle values are 2 and 5; median $= (2+5)/2 = \frac{7}{2}$.

Problem 4

1. Sum $= 12+15+18+15 = 60$; mean $= 60/4 = 15$.
2. The two middle values are 15 and 15; median $= (15+15)/2 = 15$.

Problem 5

1. Required total $= 4 \times 7 = 28$.
2. Known sum $= 18$; missing $= 28 - 18 = 10$.
3. Check $(18+10)/4 = 7$.

Problem 6

1. Sum $= 1+2+3+18 = 24$; mean $= 24/4 = 6$.
2. The two middle values are 2 and 3; median $= (2+3)/2 = \frac{5}{2}$.

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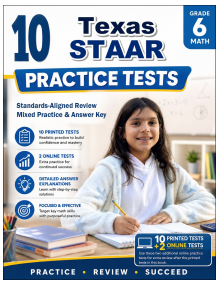

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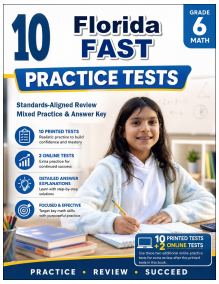

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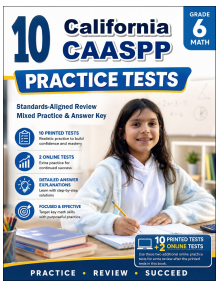

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