

The Mean

6th Grade

The number every value would be if the total were shared out equally.

Add every value, then divide by how many values there are. It is the balance point of the data.

$$\text{mean} = \text{total} \div \text{how many}$$

4, 6, 8, 10

28 ÷ 4.

7

3, 3, 3, 3

All the same, so the mean is that value.

3

2, 3, 4, 100

One huge value drags the mean away from most of the data.

27.25

Missing value

total – known values

If the mean is 7 for 4 values, the total must be 28.

THE COMMON MISTAKE

× forgetting to divide by the count

✓ always divide by how many values

The most common slip is stopping at the total.

The mean is easily pulled about by outliers. When data is skewed, the median is more honest.