

Median, Mode and Range

6th Grade

Three more ways to summarise data, and when each is the right one.

Median is the middle value once sorted. Mode is the most common value. Range is largest minus smallest.

sort first, always

3, 7, 4, 9, 5 → median

5

Sorted: 3,4,5,7,9. The middle one.

4, 6, 8, 10 → median

7

Even count, so average the middle two.

2, 3, 3, 7 → mode

3

The value appearing most often.

2, 3, 3, 7 → range

5

7 – 2. It measures spread, not centre.

THE COMMON MISTAKE

✗ taking the middle of the unsorted list

✓ sort the values first

The median is about position in order, so the order has to be right.

Data can have no mode, one mode, or several. The median and range always exist.