

Name _____

Date _____

Averages

Averaging is a mathematical method that “smoothes out” a set of numbers. Let’s say you have 8 Snickers, 7 Kit Kats, and 9 Mr. Goodbars. You want to give these candy bars to 6 of your friends. You want each of them to receive the same number of candy bars. How do you determine how many candy bars each friend will receive? First, you would determine how many total candy bars you have: $8 \text{ Snickers} + 7 \text{ Kit Kats} + 9 \text{ Mr. Goodbars} = 24$ candy bars. You would then divide the 24 candy bars by 6 (your number of friends) to determine how many candy bars each friend should receive. $24 \div 6 = 4$. Each friend would receive 4 candy bars. You have just completed a type of averaging.

When averaging numbers, you must add all of the numbers together then divide by the total of given numbers. For example:

64
7
98
23

If you were asked to average the numbers above, you would begin by adding all of the numbers together. $64 + 7 + 98 + 23 = 192$. You would then divide 192 by 4 (since you were initially given 4 numbers). $192 \div 4 = 48$. Therefore, your answer is 48. 48 is the average of the four given numbers.

Let’s look at another example:

82
4
26
748
9
31

Again, you would begin by adding all of the given numbers together. $82 + 4 + 26 + 748 + 9 + 31 = 900$. You would then divide this answer by 6, since you were originally given 6 numbers.

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Averages (Cont'd)

$$900 \div 6 = 150.$$

The average of your given numbers is 150.

Averaging can be especially useful when trying to figure out how well you are doing in a class. Let's say that you received the following scores on tests: 85, 94, and 76. What is your average tests score?

$$85 + 94 + 76 = 255$$

$$255 \div 3 = 85$$

Therefore, you could say that your average test score for these three tests was an 85.

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Averages Questions

Average the following (You can use the space to the right of the question to work out your answer):

1. 52
 34
 400

2. 4
 65
 38
 77
 111

3. 25
 75
 63
 51
 31
 28
 37

4. 266
 85
 7
 11
 8
 43

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Averages Answers

Average the following (You can use the space to the right of the question to work out your answer):

1. 52
34
400

_____162_____

2. 4
65
38
77
111

_____59_____

3. 29
75
66
58
35
27
39

_____47_____

4. 269
87
7
15
8
46

_____72_____