

ARITHMETIC MEAN

BEGINNERS NOVEMBER 8, 2015

What is arithmetic mean?

(1) What is the average of the following two numbers:

- 3 and 5

- 8 and 12

- $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{2}{3}$

- 2.5 and 3

- -1 and 1

- -8 and -2

- -3 and 11

(2) A bag containing 10 apples weighs 3 kg. How much does each apple weigh approximately?

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- (3) You picked 27 apples. Assuming the apples are the same as the ones in the previous question, how much do you expect these apples to weigh?
- (4) Luke and Dani went trick-or-treating last week. Before they left, they made an agreement that they would evenly split all the candy they got.
- (a) That night, Luke got 120 pieces of candy but Dani only got 20 pieces of candy. After splitting the candy, how many pieces of candy would they each have?
- (b) Suppose Luke got X pieces of candy and Dani got Y pieces of candy. After splitting evenly, how many will each of them have?
- (5) Suldee and Jason built a ladder by tying two rope ladders together. The ladder they built allowed them to reach the ground from the second floor.
- (a) Suppose the first ladder was 2 meters long and the second ladder was 4 meters long.
- (i) How tall is each floor?

(ii) If they had to build a ladder that would allow them to reach the ground floor from the fourth floor, how long would it have to be?

(b) Suppose the first ladder is M meters long and the second is N meters long. How high is one floor?

(6) Let a and b be two numbers. Mark these numbers on the number line. Denote the average of these two numbers by m and mark it on the number line as well. Then find the expression for m in terms of a and b .



(7) The average of two numbers is 25. The smaller number is 17. What is the other number? Make a picture on the number line to help you solve the problem.



(8) The average of two numbers is 43. One of the numbers is 67. What is the other number?

(9) The average of two numbers is m . One of the numbers is a .

(a) Assuming that the average is bigger than this number, i.e., $m > a$, find the other number b . Make a picture on the number line showing a , m and b and use the picture to find b in terms of a and m .



(b) Assuming that the average is smaller than this number, i.e., $m < a$, find the other number b . Make a picture on the number line showing a , m and b and use the picture to find b in terms of a and m .



Boats On a River

(10) Suppose a boat travels at a speed of 10 m/s in still water. Now we place the boat in a stream. Suppose the speed of stream is of 3 m/s.

(a) What is the speed of the boat when it travels downstream?

(b) What is the speed of the boat when it travels upstream?

(11) Suppose a boat travels at the speed of u m/s in still water. Suppose that the speed of current in a stream is v m/s.

(a) Let u_{\downarrow} represent the speed of the boat when travelling downstream. Write u_{\downarrow} in terms of u and v .

(b) Let u_{\uparrow} represent the speed of the boat when travelling upstream. Write u_{\uparrow} in terms of u and v .

(12) Suppose we don't know what the speed of a boat is but observe that boats travelling upstream have a speed of $u_{\uparrow} = 12$ m/s and the boats travelling downstream have a speed of $u_{\downarrow} = 18$ m/s.

(a) What is the speed of the boat?

(b) What is the speed of the current?

(13) Suppose we don't know what the speed of a boat, u , is but observe that boats travelling upstream have a speed of u_{\uparrow} m/s and the boats travelling downstream have a speed of u_{\downarrow} m/s.

(a) What is the speed of the boat in terms of u_{\uparrow} and u_{\downarrow} ?

(b) What is the speed of the current?

Arithmetic Mean With More Than Two Objects

We know from Question 6 that the average of two numbers a and b is a number m such that $a + b = 2m$. In other words,

The sum of two numbers equals to twice their average.

Now we'll look at the averages of more than just two numbers.

(14) Find the average of the following numbers:

(a) 6, 10, 5

(b) 13, 17, 10, 80

(c) $-10, 10, -20, 20$

(d) a, b, c, d

(15) If we had n numbers a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n , what would the arithmetic mean, m , be in terms of a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n and n ?

(16) Suppose Cory and Emmanuelle each taught a Beginners math circle class and they had a quiz last week. Each of their classes has 20 students. Emmanuelle forgot to tell her class that there would be a quiz so only one student showed up and received 0 points on the quiz. Cory remembered to tell his class that there would be a quiz so as a result 19 students in his class all showed up and everyone received 20 points on the quiz.

(a) What is the average score in Emmanuelle's class?

(b) What is the average score in Cory's class

(c) What is the average score obtained by all of the students who took the quiz?

Weighted Averages

- (17) The average height of girls in math circle is 140 cm. The average height of boys is 150 cm.
- (a) Is this information sufficient to find the average height of all the students in math circle? Why or why not?
- (b) Now suppose you know that the number of girls equals to the number of boys. Given this information, can you find the average height of the math circle students?
- (18) There are 20 students in the Early Elementary group. The average age of students in the Early Elementary group is 7.5 years. There are 40 students in the Junior circle. The average age of students in the Junior circle is 10 years. What is the average age of the students in the two groups combined?
- (19) Trail mix consists of walnuts and raisins. There are twice as much walnuts as raisins in the mix. The price of walnuts is \$5 per kilogram. The price of raisins is \$3 per kilogram. How should the trail mix be priced?

- (20) Halloween mix consists of candy corn, pretzels and chocolate. In 5 kilograms of Halloween mix, there is 1 kilogram of candy corn, 2 kilograms of pretzels and 2 kilograms of chocolate. The price of candy corn is \$10 per kilogram and the price of pretzels is \$2 per kilogram and the price of chocolate is \$16 per kilogram. How should the Halloween mix be priced?
- (21) Two math circle groups participate in Math Kangaroo. The first group has x students. The average score in this group is A . The second group has y students. The average score in this group is B . What is the average score for all of the students?
- (22) **Challenge:** Suppose we have n groups of numbers. The first group of numbers has x_1 numbers and the average of these numbers is a_1 . The second group of numbers has x_2 numbers and the average of these numbers is a_2 The n^{th} group of numbers has x_n numbers and the average of these numbers is a_n . What is the average of all the numbers in the n groups?

When Averages Change

- (23) The average age of math circle students in Beginners circle is 10 years and $7\frac{1}{2}$ months old. There are 24 students in the class.
- (a) What will the average age of the students in 1 year be?
- (b) Suppose we don't know how many students there are in the class. Can we still figure out what the average age of the students is in 1 year? Why or why not?
- (24) Suppose the average height of the students in Ishita's class is 146 cm. In a month, everyone grows by 1 cm. What is the average height of the class in a month?
- (25) The average age of a group of two friends is 30 years old. They then met another friend and now the average age of the group of friends is 40 years old. How old is the new friend?

