Lesson 2 Which Measure of Central Tendency

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Recall: Mean, median and mode are measures of central tendency or values that represent the centre of a set of data.

Which central of tendency should be used to best represent the centre of the data?

In general:

The **mean** is used if there are no extreme outliers.

Outliers are values that do not reflect the typical data in a set. ie. much greater or smaller than the other values in a set of data.

The **median** is used if there are extreme outliers.

The **mode** is used for data gathered from surveys or tallies.

Example 1

Determine which measure of central tendency would be best to use in each of the following.

a.) Scores on a test where all marks were between 45 and 93.

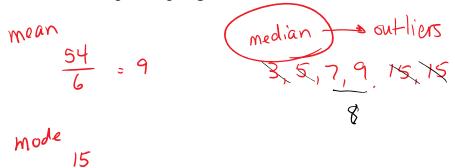
b.) Scores on a test where two people received a mark of 0 for cheating.

c.) Ages of players on an adult recreational hockey team.

Example 2

Maddi scored 7, 9, 5, 3, 15 and 15 points in 6 of her basketball games.

a.) Which measure of central tendency best represents her average number of points per game?



b.) Which measure of central tendency would Maddi use if she was trying to impress scouts?

Mode, because it's the highest value.