Mode Encyclopedia Article

Mode

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Mode

The Mode of a data set is the entry or entries that occur most frequently in the set. If a data set has two different values occurring most frequently, it is said to be bimodal. For the data set 1, 2, 4, 8, 8, 10, 10, 10, 12, 14, 15, 15, the mode is 10. For the data set: 1, 2, 4, 8, 8, 8, 10, 10, 10, 12, 14, 15, 15, the modes are 8 and 10. If all data values are equally represented, the data set will have no mode. Unlike the **mean**, the mode is always a member of the data set and it is not subject to "outliers" (data values that are extremes, very unlike the other members). The mode is a type of descriptive statistic that gives summary information about a data set. It is a measure of central tendency in that it describes or gives a summary or "average" of a whole set of events or measurements. The other two measures of central tendency are mean and **median**. The information given by measures of central tendency can be used for description or comparison.