

Mean, mode, median and range

In small groups or pairs, try to think of explanations which could help a learner understand the differences between means, modes and medians. A set of figures is provided in illustration: Work out the answers to each of the terms.

The winnings during one week (3 days) of a well-known television quiz show are:

- £1,000
- £2,000
- £4,000
- £4,000
- £8,000
- £16,000
- £16,000
- £16,000
- £16,000
- £32,000
- £64,000
- £250,000

Range: Subtract the lowest number from the highest number

Answer $£250,000 - £1,000 = £249,000$

Mean: Add all the numbers together and divide by total in the set of numbers

Answer = $£35,750$ ($£429,000 \div 12$)

Mode: The number that is in the list most often

Answer = $£16,000$ (4 times)

Median: All the numbers need to be put in order and the middle number is the median. If there is an equal amount of numbers the two middle numbers need to be added together and divided by 2.

Answer = $£16,000 + £16,000 = £32,000 \div 2 = £16,000$