**Example 1**

The students in Mrs. Bush’s class voted for their favorite book of the past three years. The three books that they voted for were:

- **The Hunchback of Notre Dame**
- **Pyramids**
- **Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets**

Here are some clues about how the vote came out:

- The number of votes for The Hunchback of Notre Dame is three times the number of votes for Pyramids.
- The number of votes for Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets is twice the number of votes for Pyramids.
- The total number of votes is 140.

**Example 2**

The weight of 50 ping pong balls is 2.46 pounds. What is the combined weight of 50 ping pong balls?

- **A** 0.0472
- **B** 1.18
- **C** 2.36
- **D** 69
- **E** 118

**Example 3**

Jane, who has been working on her math homework, solved a problem about averages. How do her test scores of 78, 76, and 74, while Mary had scores of 72, 82, and 74, compare with Mary’s average (mean) score?
Statistics and Mathematics: On Making a Happy Marriage

Example 7

The following table gives the house each girl has rented for seven months of the year 1972:

| Month | House
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan</td>
<td>153</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Which girl would you select for the tournament, and why?

Wyatt and his team analyzed the data to determine which girl would be the best fit for the tournament. They used statistical measures such as the mean, median, and mode to compare the girls' performances. Wyatt concluded that the girl with the highest mean score would be the best choice for the tournament. However, the team also considered the variability in the scores, as measured by the standard deviation. They found that the girl with the lowest standard deviation had the most consistent performance. After careful analysis, Wyatt selected the girl with the highest mean and the lowest standard deviation for the tournament.
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