



## Averages glossary

Below are some word definitions that may be useful when working with average and range.

### Average

An **average** is a value that is **typical** of a set of numbers. You can compare two sets of numbers by comparing the averages of the sets. For example, you could compare the rents in two areas of town by looking at the average rent in each area.

### Range

The **range** is the difference between the **highest** value and the **lowest** value in a set of numbers.

### Mean

One type of average is called the **mean value**.

$$\text{mean value} = \text{total amount} \div \text{number of figures}$$

### Distorted average

When an average gives a false impression it's called a **distorted average**. The factsheet 'Understanding distorted averages' explains one way in which the mean value can be distorted.

### Impossible number

An average number can sometimes be an **impossible number**. It's a number that can exist on paper but not in real life. For example, a city could have a mean value of **1.7** children in a family. But you can't actually have **0.7** of a child!

### Whole number

**Whole numbers** are the counting numbers, such as 1, 2, 67 or 126.

### Compare

When you **compare** numbers you're looking at the **difference** between them.

To find out more about maths words look at the **Skillswise Glossary**.