# Skillswise

## Finding totals from data - answers

Deciding whether the total is 'useful' or 'not useful' is a matter of opinion and may depend on what you do (eg run a shop). The aim of this exercise is to make you think about totals and whether they might be useful to someone. See if you agree.

1.  Four bags of potatoes weigh 1 kg, 2 kg, 4 kg and 5 kg. What is the total weight of the bags?

    **1 + 2 + 4 + 5 = 12 kg.** The total weight is **12 kg**. This total may be used to decide how much weight can be carried. Label as **'useful'**.

2.  Three children in a family are 3, 5 and 7 years old. What is the total of their ages?

    **3 + 5 + 7 = 15 years.** It's not clear what this might mean. Label as '**not useful'**.

3.  The costs for games at a local fundraising event are 60 p, 75 p, and 90 p. What is the total cost of the games?

    **60 p + 75 p + 90 p = 225 p** or **£2.25.** A total for what an individual spends would be useful information but the total of these three games is only helpful for finding an average. Label as **'not useful'**.

4.  The number of goals scored by a football team during September was 2, 3, 5 and 6. What was the total number of goals scored?

    **2 + 3 + 5 + 6 = 16 goals**. This is sometimes used to report progress of a team. Label as **'useful'**.

5.  Four students work part-time in a local supermarket. Their weekly wages are £38, £45, £62 and £75. What is the total weekly wage?

    **£38 + £45 + £62 + £75** = **£220**. This total will be useful to the supermarket as a wage bill (but probably not to the individual students). So label **'useful'**.

6.  There are four GCSE maths classes in a college. The number of students in each class is 21, 22, 25 and 28. What is the total number of GCSE maths students?

    **21 + 22 + 25 + 28 = 96 students**. This total will be useful to the college in planning classes. So label **'useful'**.

7.  Four people in a group weigh 64 kg, 70 kg, 80 kg and 70 kg. What is the total weight of this group of people?

    **64 kg + 70 kg + 80 kg + 70 kg = 284 kg**. This total may be used to decide whether a lift should be used. So label **'useful'**.