

Re: Whale steak

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- *From:* Eric Stevens <eric.stevens@xxxxxxxxxx>
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On 22 Jul 2006 18:03:23 -0700, "Tom McDonald" <kiltmac@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Eric Stevens wrote:

On 22 Jul 2006 15:02:42 -0700, "Tom McDonald" <kiltmac@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

<snip>

However, as those of us who have taken statistical mathematicum know, 'average' is not a precise term without knowing whether the 'average' intended is mean, mode or median. Inger did not so specify.

I've always understood average=mean with mode and median being something different.

Will you explain that to me? I've only had some stats courses, and can't figure my way out of anything more complex than relatively simple stats. As Tedd noted, these measures of central tendency are collectively called 'average' in our experience.

I have to imagine you use stats on a very regular basis, so I'd really like to know your thoughts on this.

Tom,

I've never liked statistics. However I have studied in in courses aimed at pure mathematics, engineering mathematics and psychology. I have never ever known 'average' to mean anything other than the

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arithmetic mean. Mode and median are something quite different except in special cases when they also correspond with the arithmetic mean.

Eric Stevens

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