

## Choosing Measures of Central Tendency

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### Recall :

mean = average (Add up and divide)

median = middle (after ordering)

mode = most common (can be more than 1)

- \* Use the mean or median if the numbers in data set are relatively close together.
- \* Use the median if the data set contains outliers.
- \* Use the mode for data that represents frequency of choice (ex. favourite colour)

Ex. Mika paid the following for 6 pairs of jeans:

\$44   \$38   \$45   \$49   \$125   \$50

a) calculate the median and mean.

b) What is the best measure of central tendency for the data?

a) 38, 44, (45, 49), 50, 125   Median =  $(45 + 49) \div 2 = \$47$

mean :  $(38 + 44 + 45 + 49 + 50 + 125) \div 6 = \$58.50$

b) Median is the best measure because there is an outlier (the \$125 pair of jeans).

CT WS # 2-4, 6, 8, 10, 13 <sup>challenge</sup>  
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