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The word 'average' is used a lot; we often hear of the average man, above average marks, on the average, and so on. 'Average' is used here in the sense of 'typical', 'usual' or 'normal'. The **MODE** (or modal) value is the **MODAL** value - the one that appear the **MOST**.

Can you remember how to find the **MEAN** average of a set of numbers?

Find the mean of 4, 6 and 11.

This is only **ONE** sort of average. Which other averages have we worked on so far?

The one last type of average to look at is the **MODE**.

A man who owns a shoe shop checks his daily sales and finds that he has sold shoes of sizes 3, 6, 4, 7, 7, 8, 4, 7, 8, 7.



If he calculated the mean shoe size he would get:

$$\frac{3+6+4+7+7+8+4+7+8+7}{10} = \frac{61}{10} = 6.1 \quad \text{but shoes of size 6.1 do not exist!}$$

However, what is most important is that **more size 7 shoes were sold than any other size** and this will be the average as far as the shopkeeper is concerned.

The name for this kind of average is **MODE** - the most occurring value.

**Summary of MODE**  
**(or modal) averages.**

Find the **MOST** occurring, the  
most popular value.

Find the mode of the following set of numbers:

9, 8, 6, 1, 3, 4, 5, 5, 7, 7, 2, 1, 6, 5, 9, 4