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Statistics: A Gentle Introduction (3rd ed.): Answers to Practice Problems

Chapter 2: Descriptive Statistics

1. Name the four types of distributions. Describe the qualities of kurtosis and skewness.

Types: normal, leptokurtic, platykurtic, and bimodal.

Kurtosis: Often, though not always, a frequency distribution will be mound shaped. The shape of the mound is referred to as kurtosis.

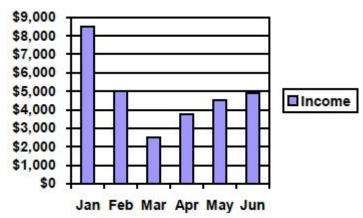
Skewness: There are two kinds of distributions, which are variations on the normal distribution, and these are called skewed distributions; positively skewed distribution are skewed to the right, and negatively skewed distributions are skewed to the left.

2. Describe the qualities of kurtosis and skewness.

Kurtosis: Often, though not always, a frequency distribution will be mound shaped. The shape of the mound is referred to as kurtosis.

Skewness: There are two kinds of distributions, which are variations on the normal distribution, and these are called skewed distributions; positively skewed distribution are skewed to the right, and negatively skewed distributions are skewed to the left.

3. Using the following information, construct a bar graph, and remember to label both axes of the graph. A clinical psychologist is comparing her net income for the first six months of the year. In January, she made \$8,500; in February, \$5,000; in March, \$2,500; in April, \$3,750; in May, \$4,500; and in June, \$4,900.



4. A psychologist studying intelligence tested the intelligence of 30 college psychology students using the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale—Third Edition (WAIS-III). Following is a table of the full-scale intelligence scores the psychologist obtained:

103	92	113	110	122	122
115	100	133	111	131	108
108	121	110	124	100	107
98	110	109	127	99	111
122	109	103	97	113	101

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For the data presented above,

a. Create a table showing the cumulative frequency distribution of the individual scores.

Score	Frequency	Score	Frequency	Score	Frequency
92	1	106	0	120	0
93	0	107	1	121	1
94	0	108	2	122	3
95	0	109	2	123	0
96	0	110	3	124	1
97	1	111	2	125	0
98	1	112	0	126	0
99	1	113	2	127	1
100	2	114	0	128	0
101	1	115	1	129	0
102	0	116	0	130	0
103	2	117	0	131	1
104	0	118	0	132	0
105	0	119	0	133	1

b. Create a stem-and-leaf plot of the data.

9 | 2 7 8 9 10 | 0 0 1 3 3 7 8 8 9 9 11 | 0 0 0 1 1 3 3 5

12 | 1 2 2 2 4 7

13 | 1 3

c. Create a table using intervals to summarize the data.

Interval	Frequency
91–95	1
96–100	5
101–105	3
106–110	8
111–115	5
116–120	0
121–125	5
126–130	1
131–135	2

Note that the above is a sample response only, as different intervals may be used.

5. Based on the table you created for response 4c above, create a frequency distribution graph. Describe the graph's shape and skewness, if any.

Because the graph and its description may vary depending on the intervals selected by the student, a sample answer is omitted.