


Reading graphs critically

Businesses often display their data in such a way that it presents their best image.

Advertising companies display their data to visually influence you to buy.

Politicians often use statistics to convince the people to vote for them.



Be careful. Graphs can be misleading.

How ?

Pizza expenses for company X

Graph A


Year	Expenses (Rand)
1	5
2	6
3	8
4	10
5	14

Graph B

Year	Expenses (Rand)
1	5
2	6
3	8
4	10
5	14

What graph might company X use to persuade you that an increase in the price of a pizza is justified? Explain.

Graph B – looks as if expenses rose sharply.



So, look at

- What information does the horizontal axis of the graph show?
- What is the grouping interval in the histogram?
- What do the values on the vertical axis show?
- What scale is used on the vertical?
- What comparisons can you make?
- What trend does the graph visually display?
- What statistical average is the most useful?

Let's practice

1. Many animals are in danger of becoming extinct. Environmental changes, such as climate, are the main causes.

1.1 Suggest two other possible causes.

1.2 Whilst visiting the Kruger National Park, you decide to record number of the animals that you saw.

1.3 Complete the Bar graph on the following slide to display your data.

Animals seen	
Type	No.
elephants	15
impala	60
lions	8
baboons	43
buffalo	26


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2. **Sixty** flowering bushes are planted. At their flowering peak, the number of flowers are counted and recorded. The results are shown in the table below.

flowers on bush	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
frequency	0	0	0	6	4	6	10	16	18




What is the minimum number of flowers per bush?

What is the maximum number of Flowers per bush?



3. Obesity is on the increase amongst South African children.
It is becoming a serious health problem.
Urgent intervention is needed.
Exercise and a healthy affordable diet will go a long way to solve the problem.



Food provides us with energy while any physical activity uses energy.


3.1 Pieter was interested in how much energy was spent during exercise. He asked **180** boys:
"What is your favourite physical activity?"
Here is his graph.
Use it to answer the questions.

Boys favourite physical activity by %

Activity	Percentage
soccer	44
rugby	14
running	21
cycling	8
other	13

3.1 Which is the most popular activity?

3.2 What do you think the "other" activities are?



3.3 How many boys prefer soccer?

3.4 Complete the table to show the number of boys in each activity.

activity	soccer	rugby	running	cycling	other
No.	79				24

3.3 The table on the right, indicates the energy burnt (in kJ per hour) for different activities.

soccer	1090
rugby	1925
running	2930
cycling	1610

Source: Teachers guide – January 2006


Each boy spends 2 hours per week on his activity. How much energy is burnt cycling?

For you to do Draw a Pie chart showing the energy burnt for each activity in the survey. (Estimate the size of the angles.)

3.4 Pieter plays rugby. After his exercise he always eats **two** of his favourite chocolate bars per week. The label on the bar states that the energy it contains is 2130 kJ.

Could this possibly lead to him putting on weight over time?

Explain.



4.

Source
Interim Road Traffic and Fatal Crash Report For the Year 2006
RTMC

Number of Crashes and Fatalities

Year	Crashes	Fatalities
2001	8800	11200
2002	10000	13200
2003	10200	12500
2004	10800	12800
2005	11800	14200
2006	12500	15500

—■— Crashes —■— Fatalities

1. What trend do you notice for both graphs ?

2. Discuss why you think we still have so many accidents in spite of Arrive Alive campaigns.

task
