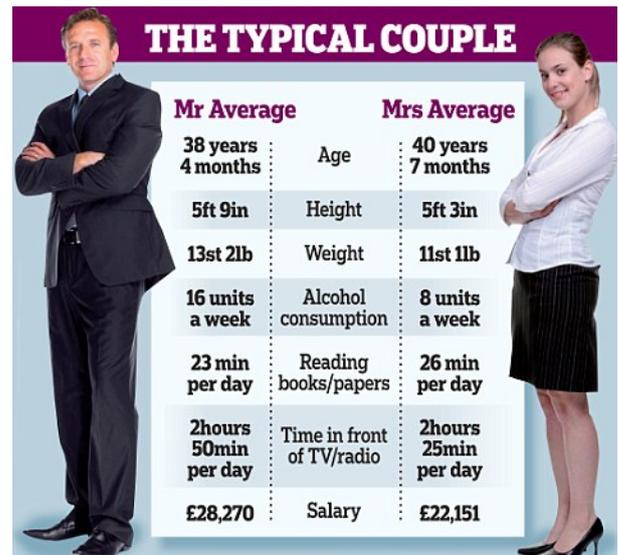# The Averages

**Mr and Mrs Average: He's 38 and on £28,000, she's 40 with 2 children**

According to the latest research, Mr Average will have completed his A-levels, be 5ft 9in (1.75m) tall and tip the scales at around 13st. His wife will have been educated to GCSE A*-C level but no further. Typically, she stands at 5ft 3in tall (1.62m) and weighs just over 11st. The number of people in a typical household is on the decline, from 2.9 three decades ago to 2.4 now.

Mail Online www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-1320202/Meet-Mr-Mrs-Average-Combined-age-78-joint-salary-50-000-children-love-chocolate.html#ixzz1bRgEl7qN (14/10/ 2010).

## THE TYPICAL COUPLE

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Mr Average** | | **Mrs Average** |
| 38 years 4 months | Age | 40 years 7 months |
| 5ft 9in | Height | 5ft 3in |
| 13st 2lb | Weight | 11st 1lb |
| 16 units a week | Alcohol consumption | 8 units a week |
| 23 min per day | Reading books/papers | 26 min per day |
| 2hours 50min per day | Time in front of TV/radio | 2hours 25min per day |
| £28,270 | Salary | £22,151 |

## Task A

From the information above is there anything that surprises you about Mr and Mrs Average?

| Miss Average | 11 – 16 years | Master Average |
|---|---|---|
| 158 cm | Height (mean) | 162 cm |
| 23 cm | Right Foot length (mean) | 24 cm |
| 206 cm | Vertical Reach (mean) | 212 cm |
| 153 cm | Arm Span (mean) | 160 cm |
| 20 cm | Hand span (mean) | 25 cm |
| 71 bpm | Pulse rate (median) | 70 bpm |
| 74% Yes | Eat Breakfast (mode) | 83 % Yes |
| 79 % Yes | Swim 25 m (mode) | 84 % Yes |
| 95 % Yes | Ride a bike (mode) | 96 % Yes |

**Miss Average (11 – 16 years)**

She is born in November, right handed and right footed, is 158 cm tall, with a right foot length of 23 cm, a vertical reach of 206 cm, an arm span of 153 cm and hand span of 20 cm. Her average normal pulse rate is 71 beats per minute.

**Master Average (11 – 16 years)**

He is born in October, right handed and right footed, is 162 cm tall, with a right foot length of 24 cm, a vertical reach of 212 cm, an arm span of 160 cm and hand span of 25 cm. His average normal pulse rate is 70 beats per minute.

Both Miss and Master Average keep their phones in their bedrooms while they are asleep, have breakfasts of cereal before they leave for school, can swim 25 m, ride a bike and do less than 2 hours of exercise a week in school.

## Task B

But when we look at our data we have no such actual pupil who took part in *CensusAtSchool*.

1. Explain why Mr, Mrs, Miss and Master Average do not exist.
2. Write an average description for your class or school.
3. Explain why you think means have been calculated for some variables (e.g. height) whereas medians and modes are used for others.