

5 Z-Scores

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FOM 11

5.5 Z-Scores

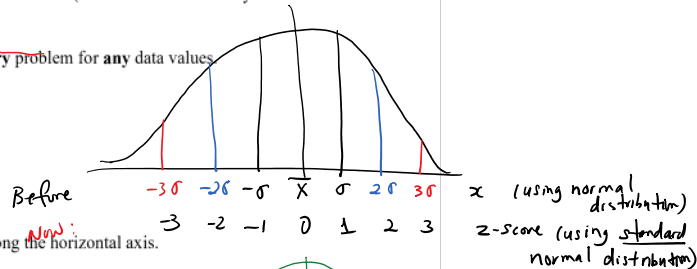
Use when you can't use the 68-95-99.7 Rule!

Since there are many different possible curves with different values of μ and σ , we can standardize the curve by transforming each score into a z-score (a measure of how many standard deviations a value is from the mean).

Standard Normal Distributions can be used in every problem for any data values.

Properties of a Standard Normal Distribution:

- Mean is 0.
- Standard Deviation is 1.
- Area under the curve is equal to 1.
- The graph is symmetrical about the mean.
- We use z instead of x to represent numbers along the horizontal axis.



- $A(z)$ is the area under the curve to the left of z .
- Positive z-scores means you are to the RIGHT of data that are below x .
- Negative z-scores means you are to the LEFT of mean.

Example 1: If IQ scores are normally distributed with a mean of 100 and standard deviation of 15, determine:

- a. the z-score for 120.

$$Z = \frac{x - \bar{x}}{\sigma} = \frac{120 - 100}{15} = 1.33$$

Need 2 decimals! (check 3rd decimal to see if see if you need to round!)

- b. the probability that a randomly selected person has an IQ less than 120.

- Go to positive z-scores table
- Find 1.3 in the z column
- Find 0.03 in top row
- $\Rightarrow 0.9082$
- To get percentage, multiply by 100
- $0.9082 \times 100 = 90.82\%$ of population have IQ < 120.

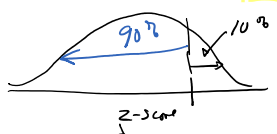
c) What % of people have IQ < 118?

$$Z = \frac{x - \bar{x}}{\sigma} = \frac{118 - 100}{15} = 1.20 \Rightarrow 0.8849 \rightarrow 88.49\%$$

d) What % have IQ < 96?

$$Z = \frac{96 - 100}{15} = -0.266 \Rightarrow -0.27 \Rightarrow 0.3936 \rightarrow 39.36\%$$

Example 2: The GPA at GW Graham Secondary is 2.6, with a standard deviation of 0.5. If the top 10% of all students are eligible to attend UBC, what is the minimum GPA needed to attend UBC?



* Z-scores give you area to the LEFT so $100\% - 10\% = 90\% \rightarrow 0.9000$. Look in table \rightarrow what z-score gives you the closest value to 0.9000

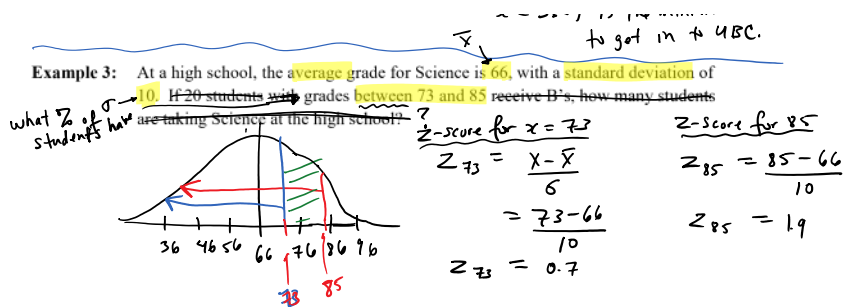
- $A(1.28) = 0.8997$
- $A(1.29) = 0.9015$
- which is closer to 0.9000?

$Z = 1.28$ is closer!

$$\frac{x - \bar{x}}{\sigma} = Z \Rightarrow 0.5(1.28) = \frac{x - 2.6}{0.5} \Rightarrow 0.64 = x - 2.6 \Rightarrow x = 3.24$$

$x = 3.24$ is the minimum GPA to get in to UBC.

Example 3: At a high school, the average grade for Science is 66, with a standard deviation of 10. If 20 students with grades between 73 and 85 receive B's, how many students



for $x = 85$: $A(Z_{85}) = A(1.9) = 0.9713 \times 100 = 97.13\%$ of people get less than 85

for $x = 73$: $A(Z_{73}) = A(0.7) = 0.7580 \times 100 = 75.80\%$ of people get less than 73

Percent of people who get between 73 and 85 is $A(1.9) - A(0.7)$

$$= 97.13 - 75.80 = 21.33\%$$

get a B on the test. between 73 and 85

