

Chapter 1

What is statistics?

Yes, you should read this chapter, even if it is not officially assigned!

1.1 How to read a cartoon textbook

As you read, keep in mind that this is not just a comic strip. It is also not a graphic novel. It is a textbook, and you should read it like a textbook. That means that you should not read it quickly. Here are some specific hints:

- Take each page a frame at a time.
- Ask yourself what the point of the text is.
- Ask yourself what the point of the cartoon is.
- Keep the context in mind as you go from frame to frame.
- Note definitions and equations.
- Follow the examples closely, and work out the results of example calculations for yourself!

1.2 What's in this study guide?

The main drawback to using *The Cartoon Guide to Statistics* as a textbook is its lack of exercises. In addition, students who are used to regular textbooks may find the cartoon guide to be 'disorganized.' So this study guide will attempt to provide a little extra organization by calling your attention to

the main points of each chapter. In addition, this study guide will provide examples and exercises so that you can practice, practice, practice.

1.3 What's not in this study guide?

This study guide is not meant as a substitute teacher! You must read the actual textbook. The text was chosen because it does a very good job of presenting the material. That material will not be repeated in this study guide.

1.4 How to use this study guide

The best way to go about the process of learning what you need to know is to read the assigned chapters in *The Cartoon Guide to Statistics* once before looking at the corresponding chapters of this study guide. Then, after looking at the study guide, go back and read the assigned chapters in *The Cartoon Guide to Statistics* again. Then sit down and attempt to do all the exercises in this study guide. If you struggle with an exercise, go back and read the appropriate sections of the assigned chapters in *The Cartoon Guide to Statistics*. If you still struggle with an exercise, seek help from fellow students. If you all struggle with an exercise, contact your instructor.

Even though contacting your instructor is listed as a last step, that does not mean you shouldn't contact your instructor. The goal of the instructor is for you to learn, and the instructor assumes that you can do every exercise in this study guide. If you don't contact your instructor, he or she can't help you!