

EXERCISE 1

Some simple operations with SPSS 16

Before you start

Before you begin the first exercise, make sure you have read Sections 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3.

An experiment on role models of aggression

In a study of the effects of adult models on the development of aggression, two groups of children were assessed on aggression after they had viewed the behaviour of either an aggressive or a neutral adult.

Aggressive	10	11	20	15	2	5	16	8	18	16
Neutral	9	9	12	8	10	2	7	10	11	9

Do these results support the view that aggressive role models promote aggressive behaviour?

Opening SPSS and preparing a data file

Open SPSS as described in Section 2.2. Click the radio button labelled **Type in data** and then **OK** to open the SPSS **Data Editor** (see Section 2.3). In order to compute means and other statistics, you could create two variables called *Neutral* and *Aggressive* and enter the scores in the appropriate columns. We suggest, however, that you proceed as in Section 2.1.5 and create a grouping variable, with some informative full label such as *Adult Behaviour*, and a shorter name, such as *Condition*, for use in the **Data Editor**. The full variable label for the dependent variable might be *Aggression Score* and the shorter name for the **Data Editor** could be *Score*.

Lay the foundations in **Variable View** first before typing in the data. Change the **Decimals** setting to zero to display only whole numbers in **Data View**. Decide on two arbitrary code numbers and value labels for the two conditions, such as *1 = Neutral* and *2 = Aggressive*. Enter these in the **Values** column, as described in Section 2.3.

Click the **Data View** tab to enter **Data View**. Try entering the data by copying and pasting, as described in Section 2.3. To see the value names as you are entering the data, click on **Value Labels** in the **View** menu.

We suggest that, early in the session, you save your work to a file with an informative name using **File** → **Save As...**

Computing the means and standard deviations

Obtain, in the manner described in Section 2.4.1, the means and standard deviations of the aggression scores for the children exposed to the neutral and aggressive adult models.

- Which group has the higher mean?

- How does the size of the difference between the means compare with the standard deviations of the scores in the two groups?

Pivoting the output table

Pivot the output table as described in Section 2.4.1 so that the headings *Neutral*, *Aggressive* and *Total* become those of columns rather than rows.

Closing SPSS

Close SPSS as described in Section 2.5.