

## Dear Family,

**Your child is learning about statistical questions.**



You are probably familiar with situations that involve statistics such as finance, sports, and weather.

A statistical question is a question that can be answered by collecting data. The answers to a statistical question will have some variety. Below are examples of statistical questions.

- What is your favorite TV show?
- How much time do you spend commuting to work each day?

A question that has a specific answer is not a statistical question. Below are examples of questions that are not statistical questions.

- When is the last day of school this year?
- How tall is the largest skyscraper in the U.S.?

**Consider the following example:**

Mr. Detrick wants to know how the people in his neighborhood use the park. He plans to ask some people in his neighborhood one statistical question. Which of these two questions should he ask?

- How many minutes per week do you spend at the park?
- On which street is the park?



The next page shows one way your child may determine whether a question is a statistical question or not.



## Understand Statistical Questions: Sample Solution

Mr. Detrick wants to know how the people in his neighborhood use the park. He plans to ask some people in his neighborhood one statistical question. Which of these two questions should he ask?

- How many minutes per week do you spend at the park?
- On which street is the park?

Decide whether each of the two questions is statistical or not.

Question	Does the question have a variety of answers?	Is the question statistical?
How many minutes per week do you spend at the park?	Yes	Yes
On which street is the park?	No	No

The first question is a statistical question. Mr. Detrick should ask it.

- The question will have a variety of answers.
- Mr. Detrick can use the data to find out how often people in his neighborhood use the park.

The second question is not a statistical question. Mr. Detrick should not ask it.

- The question only has one answer.
- Mr. Detrick cannot use the data to find out how people use the park.

**Answer:** Mr. Detrick should ask the question “How many minutes per week do you spend at the park?” because it is a statistical question that has a variety of answers. He can use the data to find out how people use the park. Another statistical question he could ask is “What time of day would you be most likely to visit the park?”

