

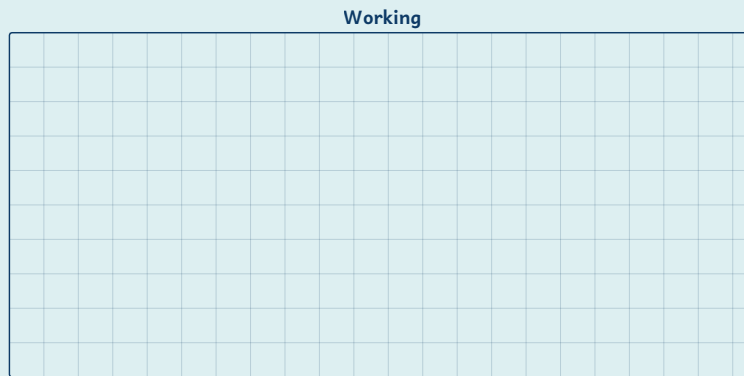
THE MEAN OF 3, 5, 2 AND 6

- 1 Add the four amounts: $3 + 5 + 2 + 6 = 16$.
- 2 Share the total fairly between the 4 amounts: $16 \div 4 = 4$.
- 3 Each share is 4, so the mean is 4.

16			
4	4	4	4

 WARM-UP

Use the squared space to draw the towers and work each mean by adding then sharing.



1. Draw three towers 2, 4 and 6 squares high, then write their total and the fair share underneath.
2. Draw four towers 4, 4, 4 and 8 squares high, write the total, then work the fair share.
3. Add $12 + 18 + 24 + 26$, write the total, then share it between 4 to find the mean.

 PRACTICE

- 1 Three cousins have cube towers of 2, 4 and 6. If they level the towers out fairly, how many cubes does each one have?
- 2 Five family members have 5, 5, 5, 5 and 10 cubes. If they gather them all and share evenly, how many cubes each?

! SPOT THE MISTAKE

Aoife finds the mean of 3, 5, 2 and 6 like this:

$$3 + 5 + 2 + 6 = 16$$
$$\text{Mean} = 16 \div 4 = 4$$

Find Aoife's mistake. What's the correct mean?

IRISH FACT Average Irish class size

The average primary-school class in Ireland has about **23 pupils**. Four classes of **22, 24, 21 and 25** share fairly as **23** each — that fair-share number is the mean.

Department of Education statistics



REFLECT

Did thinking of the mean as a fair share help you find it? What still feels tricky?