The Cartoon Introduction to Statistics

By Grady Klein, Alan Dabney

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The Cartoon Introduction to Statistics is the most imaginative and accessible introductory statistics course you'll ever take. Employing an irresistible cast of dragon-riding Vikings, lizard-throwing giants, and feuding aliens, the renowned illustrator Grady Klein and the award-winning statistician Alan Dabney teach you how to collect reliable data, make confident statements based on limited information, and judge the usefulness of polls and the other numbers that you're bombarded with every day. If you want to go beyond the basics, they've created the ultimate resource: "The Math Cave," where they reveal the more advanced formulas and concepts.

Timely, authoritative, and hilarious, *The Cartoon Introduction to Statistics* is an essential guide for anyone who wants to better navigate our data-driven world.

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The Cartoon Introduction to Statistics By Grady Klein, Alan Dabney Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From **Booklist**
You've gotta give it to comics-creator Klein. He's entirely undaunted by the dreariest subject matter. In two volumes of The Cartoon Introduction to Economics, he (and economist Yoram Bauman) made the dismal science sorta festive. Now, with the help of statistician Dabney, he makes statistics pretty painless, too—for instance, by relegating mathematical explanations and details to the all-too-appropriately named appendix, The Math Cave! (every time math is mentioned in the main text, someone runs away, screaming). Amusing exemplary setups—trying to ascertain the number of fish in a lake or the average length of the worms used to catch them—afford wisecracking opportunities, while the book's first half outlines random sampling, generating descriptions of the data in the sample, and checking for mistakes. Using such tools as the central limit theorem, inference via probability calculations, and testing hypotheses to get to confidently drawn conclusions is the meat of the second half (the wisecracks continue, fortunately). Stressing that what statistics aims for is probability, not certainty, this is a nifty reference and refresher. --Ray Olson

Review

"Like a superhero coming to save the day, in flies *The Cartoon Introduction to Statistics* . . . Its biggest contribution is to tackle the difficulties that arise from collecting data 'in the wild'--in the real world and not in the laboratory. This makes the book more useful than those that just stick to the concepts . . . If statistics can ever be made fun, then this book shows how." ?*The Economist*

"A statistician and an artist team up to demystify data crunching for the masses. Through comical tales of dragon racing, worm collecting and soda guzzling, Klein and Dabney illustrate how statisticians gather data and make predictions . . . Entertaining yet thorough." ?*Scientific American*

"[A] delightful introduction to statistics . . . The genius of the book is in its layout . . . The book's good humor, clear prose, and intelligent layout should give it a probability of success with its readers approaching 100%." ?*Publishers Weekly*

"A gentle, pleasantly illustrated induction into the strange world of bell curves and chi squares . . . A smart, enjoyable overview of this most useful branch of mathematics." ?*Kirkus*

"[*The Cartoon Introduction to Statistics*] manages to amuse and enlighten . . . Grady Klein's . . . grasp of body language makes [the illustrations] expressive and even charming. He builds a cast of characters including scientists (in white lab coats, of course), worm farmers, dragons, pirates, and more through a blocky approach with extreme variations in line width. The authors hatch some genuinely funny jokes." ?*Paste Magazine*

"Working with Dr. Alan Dabney, Klein runs his agreeable little scientist characters through examples of mathematicians using numbers to quantify, analyze, and make decisions . . . The study of statistics is an ideal subject for comics, since the representation of data as graphs and symbols is akin to what cartoonists do: reducing ideas to pictures, for clarity's sake. Klein goes one step further, turning graphs into a collection of tiny drawings: of dragons, of sacks, of boxes, etc." ?*A.V. Club*

"Present[s] the basics of how statistics work, how they're generated, what they actually mean, and how they can be manipulated. Klein grounds the whole thing into a narrative-based presentation to keep it from being too dry, and even amusing. Math 'amusing'? I know, unthinkable! . . . If this is how I learned math, my life

would probably be much different." ?*Comic Book Resources*

"This book is a perfect treatment for anyone with a phobia of statistics or numbers. It is fun, clear, and wonderfully intuitive." ?*Charles Wheelan, author of Naked Statistics: Stripping the Dread from the Data*

"Thank goodness someone finally wrote a book on statistics that is actually fun to read. Be careful when you buy this book--you might not put it down until you read it all the way to the end." ?*Sebastian Thrun, Google Fellow and CEO of Udacity*

"It's a well-kept secret that statistics is fun, relevant to everyone, and intellectually rewarding. Grady Klein and Alan Dabney have let the cat out of the bag with their approachable and humorous journey through the fundamental ideas that make statistics indispensable in today's data-rich world." ?*John Storey, Professor of Genomics and Statistics, Princeton University*

About the Author

Grady Klein is a cartoonist, an illustrator, and an animator. He is the coauthor and illustrator of *The Cartoon Introduction to Economics: Volume One: Microeconomics* and *The Cartoon Introduction to Economics: Volume Two: Macroeconomics*, and the creator of the Lost Colony series of graphic novels. He lives in Princeton, New Jersey, with his wife and two children.

Alan Dabney, Ph.D., is an award-winning associate professor of statistics at Texas A&M University. He lives in College Station, Texas, with his wife and three children.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Shawn Holmes:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or even read a book entitled The Cartoon Introduction to Statistics? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You understand beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with their opinion or you have additional opinion?

Laverne Dunbar:

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Jennifer Lewis:

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