

# Stem-and-leaf diagrams

## What are they?

You can arrange a set of numbers into a stem-and-leaf diagram. It's a simple, if crude, method that gives you a feel for the distribution of the data by organising the numbers into groups. It also makes finding the median and mode easy, since the numbers are put in order.

## How do I make one?

First, get a set of numbers (data), for example:

125    134    121    111    105    109    118    122    119    126    133

To convert this disorganised lump of numberage into a tidy stem-and-leaf diagram, group the numbers up into tens, in order:

105, 109

111, 118, 119

121, 122, 125, 126

133, 134

Then rewrite each group of tens using the stem-and-leaf shorthand:

**12 | 5 represents 125**

Not only that, but **105, 109** becomes **10 | 5 9**.

So the fully stem-and-leaf diagram is:

10		5	9		
11		1	8	9	
12		1	2	5	6
13		3	4		