

LOST	Season	01
	Episode	04
	Time frame	1 period

Prerequisites : Basic notions about statistics : scatterplot, average, median ...

Objectives :

- Use a spreadsheet to study statistical data.

Materials :

- *Task sheets.*
- *Computers.*

1 – Computer work and analysis of statistical data

55 mins

Students are given a task sheet with some statistical data about the TV show Lost, and a few questions about these data. They have to use a spreadsheet to analyse the data and answer the questions.

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	Document	Task sheet

Lost is an American serial drama television series. It follows the lives of plane crash survivors on a mysterious tropical island, after a commercial passenger jet flying between Sydney, Australia and Los Angeles, United States crashes somewhere in the South Pacific. The pilot episode was first broadcast on September 22, 2004, and since then six full seasons have aired. In this exercise we will study only the first four seasons.

Season one featured 25 episodes, season two 23 episodes, season three 22 episodes, and season four only 13 episodes, due to the 2007-2008 Writers Guild of America strike. The ratings of these episodes are shown in the tables below, with the numbers of viewers in million.

Season 1

Episode	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Viewers	18.6	17	16.5	18.2	16.8	16.8	18.7	18.4	17.6	17.2	18.9	21.6
Episode	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Viewers	20.8	19.7	19.5	17.9	19.5	18.9	17.8	17.1	17.2	17.1	18.6	20.7

Season 2

Episode	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Viewers	23.5	23.2	22.4	21.7	21.4	20	21.9	19.3	21.5	20.6	19.1	19.1
Episode	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
Viewers	18.7	18.2	16.4	15.3	16.2	16.4	15.7	15.6	16.4	14.7	17.8	

Season 3

Episode	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Viewers	18.8	16.9	16.3	17.1	16.1	17.1	14.5	12.8	13.0	12.8	12.5
Episode	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Viewers	12.5	12.2	11.5	11.7	12.1	12.1	11.9	12.3	12.1	12.3	13.9

Season 4

Episode	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Viewers	17.8	17.0	15.6	15.4	15	14.9	13.8	13.4	14.1	12.9	13	13.1	14

Source : <http://en.wikipedia.org>

1. Open a blank spreadsheet (using MS Excel or OpenOffice Calc).
2. Enter the data in four separate columns.
3. Use the “graphics” tool to represent each set of data (each season) by a different scatter plot.
4. Use the “functions” tool to compute, in four cells below each set of data, the mean, the median and the two quartiles.
5. Use all these tools and values to compare the four seasons. Which season was the most successful, which one pleased - and kept - its viewers the most? The answer should be detailed, motivated and nuanced.