Choosing Effective Examples and Analogies

SOLUTIONS

1. Provide analogies for the given topics.
   a. “Knee deep”
   b. “Polar opposites”
   c. “All over the map”
   d. “Faster than a speeding bullet”
   e. “A handful”
   f. “As heavy as an elephant”
   g. “Going through the roof”
   h. “Like it fell off a cliff”
   i. “Like a broken record”

3. Devise short phrases conveying the concept of small size to the given audience.
   a. “Pea-sized”
   b. “Like a grain of sand or a seed”
   c. “Like a speck of paint”
   d. “Like a drop of water in an Olympic-sized swimming pool”

5. Consider whether information from Illinois in 1990 would be useful for the specified comparison.
   a. Useful for a comparison of the state and its largest city in the same year
   b. Useful for analysis of trends over time in the entire state
   c. Useful for comparison of one age group to the total population
   d. A poor choice, as too many dimensions differ (time, place, and age)

7. State whether a one-unit increase is a useful contrast for the specified topics and if not, give alternatives.
   a. Too low to be of substantive interest. Use increments of $1,000 instead.
   b. Reasonable.
   c. Too low to be clinically meaningful or measured precisely. Use an increment of 10 mg/dL.
   d. Too high. An increase of one unit would span the entire theoretically possible range. Use an increase of 0.05 or 0.10.
   e. Reasonable.