

Investigation Types



Key idea

An **investigation type** is the kind of question you ask about the data.

The four types

Summary: describe one group.

Comparison: compare groups.

Relationship: are two linked?

Time-series: change over time.

Example

“Compare swimmers’ and cyclists’ reaction times” compares **two groups** — a **comparison**.

Common mistake

Two groups is not automatically a relationship — that needs **paired** variables, like height and arm span per student.

 = **copy this into your book.** Boxes without a pencil are just to read.

Types of Data



Key idea

Data is **qualitative** (categories) or **quantitative** (numbers). Numbers are **discrete** or **continuous**.

Examples

Favourite sport: qualitative.
Number of siblings: discrete.
Height: continuous.

Quick test

Words? qualitative.
Counted? discrete.
Measured? continuous.

Common mistake

Shoe size is **discrete**: only set sizes exist. Age is **continuous**, even in whole years.

 = **copy this into your book.** Boxes without a pencil are just to read.

Primary and Secondary Data



Key idea

Primary data you collect yourself. **Secondary** data comes from someone else — a website, report or database.

Example

Your own class survey: **primary**.
A government website table: **secondary**.

Trade-off

Secondary data is quick and cheap, but may not fit your question. Primary data fits exactly, but takes time.

Common mistake

Do not assume secondary data is fine. Check it measures what you need and comes from a trustworthy source.